

1 ~~Dec~~ Dec 44

Jayne dear,

What do you know, Sept. I mean Dec. I'm all mixed up. Suppose eventually I'll be asking what year it is.

Sitting in Earl Nelson's office writing this, think I mentioned him in a previous letter, privacy is obtainable here, and when I get real hungry he sometimes has some food around. Don't take that wrong, should have said, when I get piggish and feel like a snack.

met a Ft. Walker here that was in the same company back in the states. you might remember, I used to spar with him, only his face was out of bounds. because he had some fancy bridgework + some porcelain in his nose. He was Rosie's alter ego for two months.

School is about the same. Have been getting good marks in the exams. Wish I could tell you the little daily incidents, but that'll have to wait until ~~we~~ we can communicate by voice.

Bennie H. is in the hospital, nothing serious, if you write to

Beverly don't mention it.

Your letters from Jansville were so realistic that I could see the ~~the~~ smog that settles in the evening this time of the year. We haven't anything like that here except in the evening when the natives light their cooking fires using aged cow dung as fuel, interesting odd result, it ain't like chanel #5.

Got my regular fortnightly letter from Al, he's getting along very well and seems to like his work.

Met some officers this evening that couldn't find their way to their quarters so I drove their trucks over for them. It wasn't the kind of gear shift I'm used to but I got them to the right place, accompanied by a loud crashing of gears.

I'm sending this letter free mail also, be sure and mention the date you receive it, so I can compare it with air mail.

One of my tent mates is a Sgt Fanger, he lived at the

Mayflower apts. in Joplin in the latter part of 42, and he remembers you, he recalled you as the cute little girl who always wore sport clothes. It's you honey, 'cause he saw us together, he says I used to disturb him early Sunday mornings 'cause he lived in the apt. next to the elevator and I'd invariably bang my golf clubs against the wall when leaving the elevator.

I think I've worn out my welcome here for the evening. Carl keeps yawning and alluding to sleep beautiful sleep, so I'll have to scam.

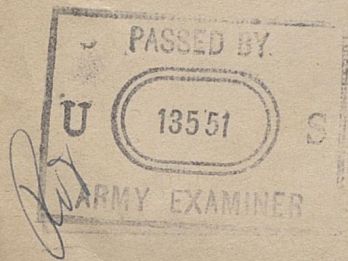
I love you! 'cause you're a cute little girl in sport clothes. By the way from mother's report I'd suggest moderation in eating. you were at 110 when I left, I'll give you a 5 lb. overweight allowance for not having <sup>or sum</sup> won a race since June, or was it July, but 115 is top weight (in only feelings) <sup>about the weight</sup> as I was saying.

I love you David

Ssgt David Bolotin  
cas co. 19 APO 7958  
4:0 PM, New York



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



4

2 Dec 44

2

Fayne dear,

Got a letter from Babe Meyers today, I still don't know where he is, but will look it up, I imagine he's in the same vicinity that I am.

Went to the movies tonight, but it was a fuddy canova picture named 'Louisiana Hayride' so thought I'd rather write to you than sit through it.

am going to town tomorrow with a bunch of fellows, the shops aren't open on Sunday, but we can eat a good meal and walk around some.

played in a touch football game late this afternoon. Fumbled a kickoff, had two passes that I threw intercepted, but we won anyway.

One of the fellows I'm going into town with has a good sense of humor. He has fiery red hair + a red mustache, rather young, about 25, has been in the army four years, of French extraction, we talk to each other in French, sketchily of course, he's a pretty good sort.

My 3rd roommate is having girl friend trouble. He used to receive a daily letter from the gal in question and they ceased suddenly, 40 days

- 2 -

have gone by and no letter. So we composed a letter in the form of a bank draft with plenty of appeal, and are now sitting tight waiting for an answer, in the meantime the boy is going through the 'sublimation' stage and is reconciled to the loss of the gal. He was a sad sack for a while. That sort of thing makes a fellow very glad that his post is a solid unit that's held together by things that are far stronger than time or distance.

I might as well tell you about my other tent mate and clear the thing up. He's 20 yrs. old, quite loud, extremely callow, argumentative, silly, pugnacious, and generally undesirable. When he can't understand something, he decides it. He needs to be tramped on and then rebuilt. Getting along with everyone is easy in the army. It's just a matter of keeping very quiet. I suppose new problems will come up when there's real work to be done, but mum is still the word for it.

You've probably heard the phrase 'The army will do him good.' It's true of grown men, not so with youngsters. My roommate is a case in point. I won't go into it very far, but

the forces that play on a youngster in the army are not constructive ones, he learns to live with others, but has no chance to learn to live with himself. He doesn't lose the exaggerated opinion that all adolescents have of themselves, and that usually happens in civilian life when you <sup>first</sup> bump your head into the initial stone wall of ~~starting~~ starting on your own. These boys are fed, clothed, commanded and that's it; they won't remember another way of life and they'll be a regimented, drab bunch. I hope I'm wrong, but that's what it seems to add up to. Won't bother you with any more on this subject, it's just a passing thought anyway.

I have laid aside my story. The plot is all right, but the language is stilted, awkward, just no good. Keep trying, maybe it'll turn out.

The night's getting kind of cold, so think I'll turn in. One more thing before I turn in. Was talking to a fellow who says he graduated from Wharton School of Finance. He suggested that we stabilize Chinese currency ~~by~~ and stop their runaway inflation by substituting American dollar values for their currency and guaranteeing its solidity. Oh brother,

he could have learned more at Esouche.  
(distance has its' good points, you'd have  
slugged me for that back home)  
no supply of goods, big demand, <sup>market</sup> sellers  
equals inflation. It took two hours  
but we finally agreed not to meddle  
with Chinese finance until the  
little pap ~~boards~~ are cooped up, big  
of us wasn't it.

Goodnight money, the jackals  
have started their evening serenade  
and from the sound of things  
a leading member of their community  
has gone where good jackals go  
when they kick the bucket.  
at that, it's not a bad lullaby,  
when you're used to it.

I love you  
David



S Sgt David Bolatin  
cas CO 19, APO 7958  
C/O P.M., New York

ARMY POSTAL  
491  
DEC  
4  
1944

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

PASSED BY  
13551  
ARMY EXAMINER

2



C-B-I

4 Dec 44

United States Armed Forces.

Jayne Star,

Had a big day in town yesterday went in with a fellow named Earl Natter from Chicago. He's an agreeable sort, has an interesting background, messenger boy for Western Union, knows the miserable part of existence, became a manager of a branch office at 21, has been in the army 4 years, little formal education, but has a good, quick mind. When we got in we talked of horses and decided to go riding. So took a taxi, and had to show the driver (a large bearded Sikh) that we wanted to ride horses. By motions, we flapped our arms, said giddyap etc. finally he said he understood and forthwith took us straight to the old light district. Earl & I had a laugh over that one, anyway we finally put our point ~~on~~ over, and he took us to a stable. There I met a little guy



C-B-I

2-

United States Armed Forces.

was a dead ringer for  
more ♀. and is a trainer, the  
spoke of unwinning + losing 90,000  
Rupees and obviously, didn't have  
one Rupee to rub against another, a  
race track hanger on supreme.

We had a decent ride on two team  
ponies, they were balley, like all  
horses for hire, but we had a good  
calm ride, I finally got my horse  
to sack and canter. Many of the race  
horses here have no papers on them,  
and are a strange mixture of thoroughbred,  
and King's 57 varieties.

We ate 5 meals in ~~the~~ <sup>town</sup>, I'm  
not kidding. Bought some brandy,  
walked around and did some shopping.  
I didn't see a thing you'd like, trouble  
is most places are closed on Sunday,  
and that's the only day we get a pass.

Found out Babe Meyers in  
near ~~head~~ and am going to try to  
get in touch with him, should



C-B-1

*United States Armed Forces.*

be fun. I got a note from him  
in the mail in which he  
suggested we try a hearing together.  
He got my address from Emanuel.

Have a slight cold so am going  
to bed early tonight and get rid of it.  
Goodnight sweetheart.

I love you

David

S sgt David Belotin  
 cas. co. # 19  
APO 7958  
C/O P.M., NEW YORK



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

PASSED BY  
13561 S  
ARMY EXAMINER

3

HEADQUARTERS  
~~REPLACEMENT~~ REPLACEMENT BATTALION

4  
6 Dec. 44

Jayne dear,

practically the third anniversary of the official opening of the war, and it seems funny to finally be almost a part of it. Don't have any idea what's going to happen now, but I'm no longer in Signal School. Learned my lessons pretty well and am a much more useful Signal Corps man now. When I think of all the things I could have learned while I was showing other guys how to fire a rifle it makes me sick. All obstacles are greatly reduced in size when you confront them. Well anyway, this course restored some confidence, and I'm certainly glad I took it.

Hope your getting my letters ok. as I understand it, there's such a terrific glut of Xmas mail + packages that all mail is messed up. I haven't received any letters from you since the one written on the 14th of Nov. actually, that's not so bad, but I mentioned it in case you wonder why I don't answer questions.

-2-

HEADQUARTERS  
95TH REPLACEMENT BATTALION

you may have asked in letters. Many of the men are much worse off than I am. One fellow has received only two letters from his wife in 3 months, and she writes almost every day, or so he says.

Is it cold at home yet?

I suppose the tobacco crop is on the market already. There I go, reduced to talking about the weather, but I'll get a thrull hearing about it anyway.

I bought a nice pair of sun glasses the other day, gold rimmed, glass proof lenses and everything. One of the fellows had two pairs, 50 Rupees was the price, extravagant, but useful.

Haven't been able to get in touch with Babe Meyers yet, but am going to try tomorrow, if I can reach him will meet him Sunday and to quote him, 'we'll tear a hearing together.'

Goodnight sweetheart I'll write again tomorrow

I love you

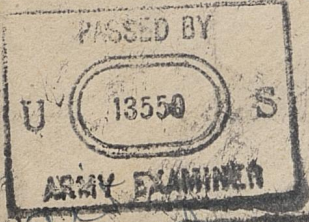
David

Ssgt David Bolotin  
cas co. 19, APO 7958  
c/o pm., New York



Mrs. David Bolotin

285 S. Ashland Ave.  
Lexington, Ky.



*mas*  
*owl*

4



7<sup>th</sup> Dec 44

5

Jayne dear,

Got about 5 letters from you today and one from mother, I tingle all over and nothing can bother me. I've learned to read quickly by decreasing eye jerks from three to two + sometimes one per line, but in reading your letters I dwell on each word, I read very slowly, kind of sink it in, it takes me about half an hour per letter and it's the best part of foreign service. Thanks for writing so very often honey, you can't begin to realize just how much I appreciate it.

Of course your letter can't be too long tonight as I promised myself to write to mother tonight. So naturally I'll have to cut you way down. What an advantage I have. Can call you 2000 and it takes you more than a month to tell me your name ain't 2000; however, I won't take advantage of the situation. ~~and~~

Am now working in Sgt. Carl Nettles office, its clerical work and quite interesting, although I can't tell you its exact nature. Its a good job. Good thing you's not a curious woman, all this would really stand

you on your head, but I've been telling you everything that's allowed to be told.

Got a kick out of your account of the 2 1/16 mile race at Churchill Downs. I can just see you yelling every time the horses come into view. That's the first time in a long time they'd run a long distance job.

Suppose they were all stout platers.

about the dolls I sent, if you think Shirley should have one, so be it. They should arrive in Lexington about the same time as this letter, <sup>have either</sup> ~~send~~ <sup>the</sup> forward this doll to Shirley, O.K.

I didn't mean for you to send me lighter fluid and don't buy me a lighter. Gasoline works fine in the one Dad gave me and there's plenty around. It's one of my best possessions nowadays it isn't getting much use as I have a debate before smoking each cigarette.

Glad you got something for a Xmas present out of your Xmas gift. Now if you'll buy one more real nice gift for yourself I'll be satisfied. I'm anxious to find out what else I gave you so write and tell me pronto.

can't picture you crocheting an afghan but more power to you if you have the patience.

can't wait any longer, must discuss beautiful you. Mother, aunt Juliette and BB all eye to eye on this. Don't think I've ever told you just exactly what a pleasing picture you are. a step by step analysis might prove a bit embarrassing, so let's put it this way, beautiful you are beautiful.

About pajamas, sure I'll wear 'em after the war is over, it should only take a few weeks to house break me.

Stark tragedy today, bought my 6 bottle per week beer ration and on my way ~~to~~ home dropped one of the bottles, usually you can't find a rock by diligent searching, and the bottle I dropped lit on a rock and broke into tiny pieces. So, 5 bottles this week. That's enough I guess, it'll have to be.

Gene Sedel wrote a V mail to one of the other fellows here and mentioned me. Honey he writes awfully gauche and pompous letters, but they're well meaning,

-4-  
an

and kind of have ~~the~~ air of noblese  
oblige about them, that's contradictory  
but you know what I mean.

~~we~~ think I've told you about  
the spelling game we played in  
between periods at school. It's  
fun and new words crop up  
continually. Mnemonic, juxtaposition  
etc. Come to India and increase  
your vocabulary.

Had an interesting discussion  
with the mess Sergeant this evening.  
He's got his troubles too, suppose  
everyone has.

about travel pay from Fepin  
to Lexington. you can put in for  
it, guess you'd have to get the  
proper forms from the nearest  
army post; however I'd suggest  
that you wait. we're entitled to  
one more and that can be at  
any time. When I come home  
you can get transportation to my  
post of entry. Do what you think  
best, the latter course seems  
better to me, since the amount  
involved is very small.

Suppose Edwin and Judy  
have announced their engagement,  
OK huh. Has Edwin recovered

completely from the meningitis he had while at camp in Arizona? When he comes to Lexington will you ask him to write to me and give me his address, I'd like to correspond with him.

Really I'd planned to write to mother + Dad this evening so I'll sign off and continue this tomorrow

I love you so

David

S. Sgt David Balatin  
Co. C. 19, APO 7958  
C/O P.M. New York



Mrs. David Balatin



285 S. Ashland Ave.  
Lexington, Ky.

5

10 Dec 44

Jayne Dear,

Had an interesting day today was figuring on going into town, but had to work. Been pretty busy, so far on my new job - we haven't gotten finished until 10 o'clock at night. makes a long day of it, but I like it, it's useful work and work is the solution to most problems, particularly those which have to do with missing a sweet wife, one each, pretty, nearly perfect, model one with two hearts, less and mine.

I'm rid of my cold by now, was quite a sniffer for a while, but am O.K. now.

at dinner time this evening I was out in another area and ate at the permanent party mess, quite amazing, didn't have to wait in line half an hour or eat out of a mess kit and it wasn't cafeteria style, it was really an experience, sounds funny to you I know, but being one of a large mass of men, and having thousands of other guys arriving at the same place and at the same time and wanting to do the same thing, is the tinniest bit hard to get used to, it's good experience I suppose, everyone should spend at least one hour a day waiting in line, it would cure many advanced cases of egocentrism, ~~and~~ after 6 months of it, it always seems rather unusual if

you don't have to wait around. By the way, I take a book with me when I have to wait in the check line and that helps considerably.

went to a movie this evening, and finally ran out of work, saw 'Marsie goes to Reno,' it wasn't too bad and I'm not a critical audience nowadays.

I'm now rooming or should I say tenting with two nice fellows, rather unusual too. One is named George Small, he was in the consular service and was a vice consul at a post in India, when he was inducted into the army, overseas on his first day of service. The other fellow is Clarence Smith, he has fiery red hair, was working in India when inducted, is married to a girl who is partly English & partly Indian. They're both rather clever fellows and we get along well. Clarence is a typical rough & ready Irish boy, and George is a tall, thin rather English type, so you can see we're an unusual little group.

Don't see much of Reggie nowadays, since I mentioned him in



-3-

this letter I decided to call him so  
his coming down here and bat the  
breeze for a while, aint that nice.

11 Dec 44

The morning after, we stayed up until  
the unheard of hour of 11:30 last night  
and talked our old times, even had  
a beer or two. Reggie is quite a boy, and  
has a story for every occasion. He's  
been in India for two and a half years.

Bennie K. got out of the hospital  
yesterday and looks quite well again.  
He had some gastro intestinal trouble,  
but it's cleared up all right.

Remember the boats I had made,  
they're too short for me and I was  
faced with the problem of getting rid  
of them, so this morning while shaving  
I casually directed the conversation at  
the washstand to boats, and now I  
have two customers, should be able  
to liquidate my investment.

Earl Natter's wife pulled a good  
one. He got a Xmas package yesterday  
and after unwrapping it eagerly, he  
found a pad of writing paper & some  
stamps. It seems that he's been a  
bit lax about writing to his wife, but

It was a dirty truck anyway.

Reread your last four letters again this morning. Set just as much kick out of them at fifth or sixth reading as at first. I wrote Dad and thanked him for bidding the three broad masses in our name. There is something on my mind that I didn't write to Dad because I thought he might misunderstand, so I'll tell you and you can write me your opinion. Here's the story: I really appreciate Dad's gift and think it's one of the nicest things the masses had done for me, but feel that it's too large a gift, and it's kind of against my principles to take things without earning them. That about sums it up Payne, it's not too much a matter of pride, but just a matter of past procedure and habit.

Old demon work caught up with me, we just had a pile thrown at us so I'll quit and mail this.

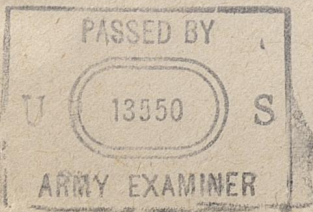
I love you

David

S Sgt David Balatin  
cas co. 19, APO 7958  
c/o p.m., New York.



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



6

11 Dec 44

Jayne dear,

Decided to give your eyes a bit of ease today, and at the same time practice my typing a little. Took a speed test yesterday and I am down to 60 words a minute, so a good deal of practice is required.

Believe I'll go into town tomorrow on pass and see if there's anything worth while there that can be sent home. Haven't ever been there when the shops were open to any great extent, only a few stay open on Sunday.

There's a nice husky six foot 200 pounder working here in the office with me and we've been getting some exercise, wrestling, boxing, calisthenics, and what have you. At this point my arms are very sore, this morning had trouble washing my face because there's no strength in my arms at all, but should round into shape in a few days.

My new room mates, bless them, were in town Sunday and figuring I'd be hungry when they came back, brought me an even dozen chicken sandwiches, some tomato juice and some bananas, that's really having roommates isn't it. Also co-incidentally I had a letter for, I mean from Mr. W.L. Weller, and really enjoyed glancing through it. Am going to put it away and let all the boys share it Xmas eve, at which time were going to have a get together, then they all can share in Mr. Weller's sparkling wit.

The work isn't too much today, so feel like relaxing and writing to m'sweetheart. Expecting some mail today or tomorrow, a big bunch of letters came in today for the fellows in my shipment, but they haven't been sorted and passed out yet.

The old gang is really breaking up, said goodbye to Bernie K. today. Can't tell you anything more about it.

Have heard that there's a cigarette shortage at home. After looking at the statistics of cigarette production its hard to believe that an actual shortage exists. Looks like everyone is stocking up and that's causing the shortage. We have an allowance of 4 cartons per month which is more than enough.

The office in which I work is between the two buildings used to collect laundry for the native laundries. I suggested that we put up a sign 'Main Entrance to Laundry' and thereby enhance our army pay by many rupees. We can beat the devil out of the clothes against the floor, dump a little water on them, and that'll get it. Only trouble is we haven't figured out how to iron things. As soon as that's solved we may go into business.

Typewriters needed for official business, so will close  
I love you. *Now the personal touch.*

*I love you  
Daniel*

17 Dec 44

Jayne dear,

Worked kind of late last night and on duty today, so didn't write yesterday.

Received a nice Xmas package of food from Aunt Edna. So after work last night Reggie, George, Clarence, Earl + I had a get together. We opened a package which contained three Feathers, and ate the fruit cake contained in my package.

It was really good and talk flowed freely, a regular Saturday night Clambake. We played 4 handed cribbage, did our drinking and ~~drinking~~ ~~and~~ were quite happy. Every man present was a good story teller in his own right and the thing had an interesting International flavor, a man from the consular service, one who has spent five years working for firms in this part of the world, a widely travelled Englishman, an old <sup>in point of service.</sup> western Union office manager + your luskier. All in all an interesting evening.

Today has been kind of disgusting, not enough work to keep you busy and too much to allow any other activity, a poor way to spend Sunday, or any day for that matter. My roommates went to town + I wanted to go. They

had a camera, but the aforementioned work prevented.

All time in past glory as far as receiving mail is concerned. 10 letters in 3 days, so I'm expecting a long blank period, and won't complain at all.

We had boneless turkey at lunch today, quite a treat, probably have cold cuts tonight, and that'll make me think of our Sunday menus in Joplin, ~~except~~ except the cold cuts came in the afternoon & we went out for our evening meal.

In a tired, Sunday mood honey so won't write much. I love you,

David

S Sgt David Belatin  
cas co 19, APO 7958  
7:00 pm - new york



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

PASSED BY  
P.T.K. [signature]  
mail

7

13 Dec 44

9

My dear sweet,

Really had an excellent time in town yesterday. Went in with Reggie Siles. We had a good meal, then went to a record shop. He bought a copy of a 'Jazz' Debussy and some Crosby records. Then decided we wanted to ride. We found a stable run by an English woman about 50 yrs. old. Her husband brought some racing stock here years ago and died here, so she remained and made her horses as a her source of income. She has 25 horses, many of them from a thoroughbred stallion and they're good riding horses. The one I had was a 6 yr old mare named Queen of Sheba, 3 gaited, trots very well. Like all horses for hire it was balky at first, but came out of it pretty good and I enjoyed the ride.

Then we went shopping, but didn't see anything worth while except some carved ivory figures. I didn't buy any yet, but believe I will, they're very expensive and I want to get some that you'll like, rather than pick haphazardly, will look at a few more



before deciding.

We had our evening meal late in the afternoon and came back by train, as there's nothing to do in town after dark.

Incidentally, while shopping with Reggie I found that the English are quite capable of nickel squeezing to an extreme degree. He receives much more pay than I do, being unmarried, but he is very conservative in his purchases and tries to buy things at prices which are awfully low. I'm not discussing Indian shops where bargaining is necessary and an accepted custom, but at English shops where the prices are fixed and not unreasonable. Nevertheless he haggles nastily away, unmoved by the fixing eyes of the clerks.

Anyway, all in all it was an enjoyable day and a good respite from B1 going on. Speaking of B1 going on, word about our Xmas party has spread around, and there are those who want a preview of Mr. Wilber's letter, but I'm not allowing it, it's kept under lock & key at all times.

The fact that George Small was in the Consular Service before entering the army, has helped the food situation - quite a bit. <sup>(relieves)</sup> He knows people and places and can get many things that are otherwise unobtainable.

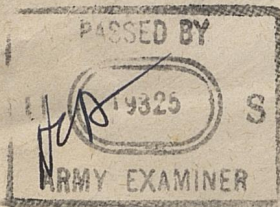
I have some work to do, so will post this now. It'll be censored today and will reach you faster, and that's good, 'cause reaching you is the thing I want to do most. It's only by letter now, but a fellow can hope the time will pass quickly and then presto, well it sounds good anyway, ~~not say~~. Don't mistake the above for a down in the mouth attitude, it's just that I love you very much and being away from you is most undesirable.

David

S Sgt David Belatin  
c/o co. 19 APO 7958  
c/o pm - new york



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



8

14 Dec 44

9

Jayne dear,

Seven letters from you at once this morning, one from Dad and one from Sarahella, suppose I resembled a porter pigeon while picking it up, I was mighty proud.

By the way you've never mentioned whether you received a check for \$11.00. I cashed it for a fellow here and sent it to you. Thought maybe it was lost. Let me know if you received it.

Yes, honey I've been shopping, but haven't seen anything outstanding yet, and I don't want to send you sum of mine stuff. Will wait until something of real value turns up. I'm in a part of India that has no real values <sup>at present</sup>. With the coming of the American Rajahs, prices skyrocketed and you can't get anything decent except at inflationary prices. Our PX here has no articles ~~at all~~ of souvenir value, so I'll just have to wait a while. In town the other day they wanted 50 Rupees for small ivory figurines. The workmanship on their pieces in this part of India is very crude, and precious and semi-precious stones are scarce and expensive and are often misrepresented. So honey, I will save a good part of my vast

salary from month to month and one of these days will find something worthwhile.

Dads letter was very interesting. will you ask him a couple of questions for me? First who is Flying Streak's sire, shes out of Rockabye Babe I believe? and what is Rockabye Babe's breeding? Also did he keep them because he wanted to retain that blood line, or because of their sight defect? Also what happened to the foal by Sir Davison - Flying Streak? - a yearling  
Royal Minto  
Supremus - Helms Babe  
pr.  
Also will you send me the names (if they're named) and breeding of the three two year olds that went to New Orleans with peace again, Crepin and her answer?  
Sally S.D - Bland  
Miss D - S.D - Jura  
Flying Sp. - S.D - Ark

If this letters seems a bit disconnected it's because these are short spurts of work between almost every sentence. We've been busy sort of sporadically today.

Sarahelles letter was very apologetic. I'd written to her twice and don't know what delayed the letters, but she finally received them. In the meantime I'd been getting "I'd be ashamed" letters from her. All's well that ends well.

will write to aunt Juliet today, she seems to be the main corresponding aunt of the Fausville Branch. She promised us a dinner when I get back

in which we could name the menu, so start planning, you'll have plenty of time and we should be able to dream up a real cosser. Her handwriting is of the essence, it's not hard to read, just needs a good imagination. She confirms everyone else's opinion, says you really look gorgeous, that's the little woman!

Enjoyed your account of the Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Don't mind telling you now that Thanksgiving Day was one of the worst spent here in India. The desire to be home with you and the family on that day was very strong and made no allowances for any sort of compensation or excuse. But it went away because it had to. You could say that the laden weight a fellow carries around with him because he ~~is~~ misses his wife became even heavier for a moment, but it can never become too heavy to bear, because I realize that it would be far worse to be in this sad forsaken country and have no strong, this, for then you'd just stay in a blue mood with nothing to pick you up.

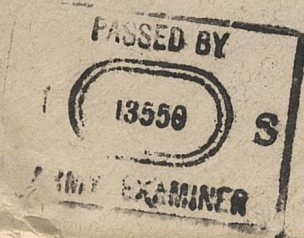
I'll stop now honey and mail this. I love you very much

David

Ssgt David Belatin  
cas. co. 19, APO 7958  
4/0 pm - New York



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



9

15 Dec 44

Jayne dear,

Received your letters written Nov 30th and Dec 2nd today. They're solid substantial letters, really crammed full of things well said, and if I ever need any further reason for loving you, I can use your many sweet letters as a basis.

It takes about a month for our cycle of thought to be completed by mail. I've noticed something very peculiar. Sometimes letters written by us on the same days will contain thoughts that are quite similar. Much of this is co-incidence, but the percentage of similarity is a trifle high, maybe we're kind of on the beam together.

Received my usual letter from Al, and he's about the same. He has his camera here now and is able to get some film. He's located in an interesting part of India, is really fortunate.

Worked until 10:30 last night so am a trifle sleepy today, but should be able to climb into my rope trundle bed rather early this evening and catch up.

Received a nice letter from Aunt Edna today. She speaks of Constance's many affairs, that child is incorrigible, or isn't she a child any more. As former temporary parents we shall have to take steps to get her on an even keel. Think I'll write a letter to Alice and one to Constance, so not knowing their addresses I'll enclose Alices' letter in one to you and Constances' in one to Aunt Edna (when I get around to writing them).

As I recall it, you're staying at Grandma's at the present time, while the folks are fishing at Homosassa. From the unbiased reports of my agents on the scene, I only hope you don't eat her out of house and home. When I think of your former playful attitude toward food and your



present business like one, I'm amazed (and thankful).

Pray tell me what you were doing going to a heart specialist for treatment, I don't get it. Is Dr. Bach in Lexington, and what's the story? Being away from you I suppose I do worry some, I read your letters very carefully and probably magnify things out of true proportion. Anyway I hope that's the case.

As you know, there is absolutely no refining influence in the army, so speech tends to become kind of picturesque, maybe even downright omery, careless, and not exactly what grandma or anyone else who was in the least bit sensitive would approve. I suppose I had a subconscious reaction to this, 'cause today I suddenly found myself speaking very precisely, suppose I got tired of being the cussing kid.

Let me know if you mind my typing letters to you. I know it lacks the personal touch, but I can get more into a smaller space this way, and I'm sure you have a much easier time reading it.

Found out that one of the PX's on the post has a few things in such as Carved Ivory etc, so am going shopping this afternoon (if we're not busy). Maybe I can find something you'd like.

Think I've told you about magazines before, but in case I haven't I'll repeat it. When I first arrived here, we were able to get late magazines, but since then no new ones have arrived. Special services makes overseas editions of Time and Newsweek available, but haven't ~~be~~ been able to get late copies of such magazines as Readers Digest or Coronet, so I'd appreciate it if you'd have them sent to me. On second thought, you'd better wait until I have a permanent APO as they might wander around for long periods of time after I leave my present address.

None of the Xmas packages have arrived, and I'm afraid they won't arrive

by the 25th, but there's an outside chance, and I'm still hoping.  
Just mentioned this so that you'd be able to explain my not having  
thanked people for Xmas packages, just tell them that they "Aint  
arrivid yit".

'Bye honey.

I Love You  
David

1st Sgt David Boletu  
cas 019 APO 7958  
C/O PM - New York



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



10

19 ~~Dec~~ Dec 44 <sup>7</sup>

Jayne dear,

Some of aunt Edna's super  
deeper stationery, only it's not too  
good for this climate since it  
absorbs water and gets damp,  
but that's not too bad. My lunch  
today consisted of Vienna Sausage  
& boneless chicken, taken from  
aunt Edna's Xmas package, of course.

We've been very busy lately  
and that suits me very well.

I'm going to try to get you  
a purse just like that one

you described that the  
Rosenberg fellow sent his wife.  
Probably buy it at the same  
place, but it won't be for a  
while, probably won't send it  
for a week or two.

Reggie went on a furlough  
today. I got his address and  
am going to keep in touch with  
him. He's the kind of a fellow  
that you can properly call a  
friend and it's too bad that

I'll probably never see him again.  
But then again you can't ever  
tell.

The fellows are gathered  
around tonight and small  
talk is flowing. Trying to write  
this letter, ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> I get distracted  
pretty often.

One of Carl Nelter's friends  
just came in with a couple  
of H Rations, so we'll have  
a feast in a while, I'll join  
in that even though I'm not  
in the hull session.

Having a famine period  
in mail again after the  
feast several days ago, but  
it doesn't worry me like it  
did at first.

I may get to see Al  
Malinew at Xmas time,  
though I'm not sure, he's  
some correspondent, ~~he~~ writes  
to me every few days  
even if he doesn't receive

an answer.

It's been a mising day today  
so I'm going to turn in early.  
Goodnight sweetheart

I love you

David

S. Sgt David Balatin  
cas co 19 APO 7958  
c/o P.M. New York



Mrs. David Balatin



285 S. Ashland Ave.

Lexington, 37, Ky.

1

20 Dec 44<sup>2</sup>

Jaime sweet,

an early morning letter between  
yells. I was really an eager  
beaver today. Got up at 5:30  
and couldn't go back to sleep  
reminds me of our paper days  
only then I could always go  
back to sleep.

Found a new place to cut  
while shaving today, took a  
nick out of my right ear,  
the new, the unusual, the  
different, anyone can just cut  
their face, but very few would  
think of an ear. It's only making  
talk, a mosquito couldn't have  
gotten a good drink from the  
flaw, I heal quickly.

Got my laundry back this  
morning, only five buttons  
missing; that's was below  
pat, I must have a talk  
with the 'dhabid.'

Having my hair unbacked  
off today. Really having a good  
time with haircuts now that



you're not here to see the results. Comfort is the only consideration, nothing else is considered.

You haven't mentioned much in your last few letters about your Red Cross, etc activities. Are you still resting up from the successful Community Chest Dinner?

Just fixed our telephone.

Found a short in the lead in wire, quite by accident of course, but it made me feel very useful. Whenever anything like that happens I always think of your doubts when I was splicing the lamp cord in Poplin. Maybe one of these days it'll burn out and the Mayflower will need a complete set of fuses.

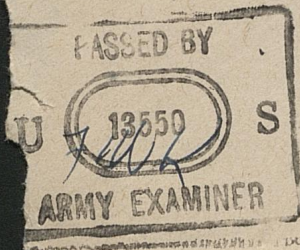
gonna be a busy boy today. Will write you a long letter soon, they've been kind of busy lately, but remember, you said to write even if there's no news at all. I love you

David

Sgt David Boletun  
Co. 19, APO 7958  
10 PM - New York



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



2

3  
24 Dec 44

Jayne dear,

arrived at my new station, after an interesting train ride, which I'll go into detail about. In at Karachi India for the time being but having just arrived and this being Xmas Eve, haven't found out anything yet.

The city seems rather clean for India, and more about it later.

Now the train trip. We were dumped at the station with a group of men, told that a train would be along presently and since there were no officers a Tech Sgt named Thornburgh was put in charge. The train was made up, the engine hooked up and it was ready to go, one minor item had been neglected. There was no coach for our group. Sgt Thornburgh requested my assistance, so we swung into action, went to see the station

superintendent and after much  
phoning, he put an extra coach  
on the train. We carried our  
patients and baggage with  
us and a great, to say the least,  
quite crowded. We had some  
fine characters on the train.  
One was quite interesting, his  
voice was exactly like Roosevelt  
but any resemblance from there  
on just wasn't. This fellow  
was big, tough and vulgar, an  
old army man. Controlling  
him would be like influencing  
the tides. We ended up on  
good terms and he didn't  
break anyone in two. I must  
say I consider it quite an  
accomplishment that nothing  
went wrong on the trip.

Since there wasn't  
enough room to lie down on  
the wooden benches, sleep  
was out of the question  
except for cat naps. It was  
very chilly at night but I  
had three blankets. We  
traveled through desert country

Camels were plentiful, there were monkeys and as usual many people, mostly dirty.

This is only a preliminary account of things. I wanted to write immediately so you'd have some continuity in the mail.

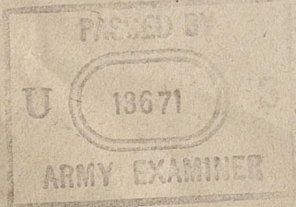
It'll probably be quite some time until I get mail again with this morning about, but it won't be too bad because it's expected. It's dinner time so I'll finish this and mail it, getting something besides "K" + "C" rations will be quite a treat. I love you dear

David

S/Sgt David Balatin,  
185th Qm Co. (depot supply)  
APO 885  
40 pm - New York



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



3

25 Dec 44 <sup>4</sup>

Fayne dear,

Xmas day and got early at that. I suppose I've finally become what is called a chronic early riser.

The quarters are quite comfortable here, tho not exactly luxurious. My canvas bunk felt like the queen's sixteen mattresses after the wooden train benches and if I were in with a lion to do battle this morning, having had breakfast, believe I could strip his or her gear.

There was no joy in Mudville last night. Went to bed rather early, tried to watch a show for a while but my eyes wouldn't focus, could have had a nip or two of spirits, but it was domestic fire water and I haven't learned to trust it yet.

You remember O'Brien I suppose, he's up here and has been quite helpful, since I had no footlocker he even made space in his for a few of my things. He probably hasn't changed a great deal and will very probably broach a loan in the next few days, which

I shall have to refuse due to insufficient excess funds.

While unpacking my things yesterday, I found the snapshots you'd sent me a while back. Spent quite a time looking at them. Reaffirmed my opinion that you're lovely and convinced me that days away from you are not good ones, but days to be endured since each one means a day removed from the vast wall of time that keeps us apart.

While on the train platform at a station en route to Karachi I had a conversation with an Indian and remarked that the people of northern India seemed much larger than the southern Indians. He replied "yaas, the northern Indians are 'beeg' handsome men." (mental note, perhaps 'beeg' brother, but handsome no.) although it is true that the people of this part of the country seem better proportioned and have nice features.



The city of Karachi is much cleaner than most Indian cities and although it would seem quite littered to you, it ~~represents~~ presents a pretty picture to me; that's strictly on a comparative basis of course. One thing more, almost all the people here wear shoes and in Southern India it was exactly opposite. It was funny to see the waiters in a big city restaurant all dressed in white ~~shirts~~ jackets and trousers and fancy turbans, but invariably shoeless.

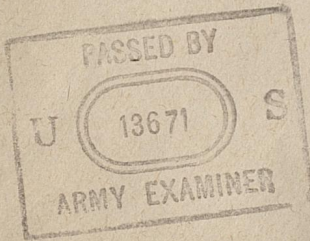
There are no duties for me today, so I'll spend it resting and sightseeing. That's the message for today sweetheart. I love you.

David

S. Sgt David Bolatin 35478690  
185th M Co, Depot Supply  
APO 886, 409 m - New York



Mrs David Bolatin



285 S. Ashland

Lexington, 37, Ky

4

26 Dec 44

5

Jayne dear,

Meals were excellent yesterday. It isn't that they have more food or better food than my last station, but it's prepared more carefully and therefore is much more appetizing. Xmas dinner menu, Turkey, dressing, tomatoes potatoes, peas, jello, ice cream, cake and mixed nuts. No 2 didn't overeat, nor have I had anything to drink, mighty serious huh?

Spent most of the day shopping. Bought you a cashmere jacket, the see mat, bear mat, speak mat monkey set in ivory. A small pathbed horse in ivory and a necklace with tiny carved elephants in ivory. Hope you like the jacket, they're rather expensive. If you have no other use for it, it'll make a warm jacket to wear over pajamas. Of course, bargained for each item as it's the custom

In the Indian shops here. The most effective technique is to start walking toward the door, then they hup and make a few nice concessions. They're very unily characters and are pretty hard traders, but if you have a faint idea of comparative values and are not too anxious to buy, you can get decent prices.

Had a lute to eat at the Red Cross Club here, came home to the barracks, watched a USO leg show, entertaining, but display of physical hoopla was stressed to the breaking point and artistry peeped out only occasionally. I suppose the audience creates the show in its own mental image.

By the way I may add a few things to the stuff I purchased so won't send it until tomorrow.

It should arrive in about 40 days. I'm afraid my mail situation is pretty hopeless.

about the time I start receiving mail here, I'll be transferred again, but keep writing, they'll eventually catch up.

was kind of a lone wolf yesterday. I haven't found anyone to knock about with, but I suppose I will eventually. The fellows seem O.K. here.

went for a shany (horse drawn cart) ride all around the city yesterday. It stands head & shoulders above other Indian cities. The smell of India, (pew) altho not absent isn't predominant. The streets aren't as littered. I suppose you know about Indian <sup>children</sup> ~~children~~ they're sacred & wander unharmed through the streets & countryside. They're not to be slaughtered until they're ten yrs old & then only under certain conditions. ~~They're~~

They're mighty sorry looking,  
high rumped, bony creatures.  
There isn't half enough forage  
for them + it's mighty sad  
if you're in the cattle raising  
business in India. They do  
have a non-sacred meat  
animal, the water buffalo.  
It tastes like a cross between  
venison + the morning after.

Well honey I may get an  
assignment of some kind this  
morning, so I'm going to  
the orderly room and check.

I love you

David

P.S. Read excerpts of this  
to m' sister + man will write  
to them in a few days.  
also tell EM to send me  
Seymour's address again, I  
misheard it. Hope it's  
Berlin by the time I get it.

S Sgt David Belatin, 35478690  
185th Am Co, Depot Supply  
APO 886  
C/O Pm - New York



Mrs. David Belatin  
2855 Ashland Ave.  
Lexington, 37, Ky

5

ear rings  
Aunt E.  
Alice - Steaks.



27 Dec 44<sup>6</sup>

Jayne dear,

Somewhat routine yesterday, I won't have much work to do until transferred to my assignment.

Had a workout yesterday. There's a basket + a lap sided basketball. Can still make set shots but have difficulty with short ones. My trouble is a peculiar one, I analyzed it. As you know (or do you) in order to maintain balance in taking a left handed shot from the left side of the basket you leap from your final stride on the right foot, since there's no leap left in my right foot I keep missing easy ones. Can't shoot very well with my right hand so I'm afraid my days as a real competitive ball player are over. Maybe if I had time a two handed technique shooting from a ten minus a leap could be worked out, but when my assignment comes I don't guess there'll be time for

- 2 -

that sort of thing

We had a movie here last night, 'The Falcon' does something or other, it wasn't bad.

The weather reports on the States indicate that you're going to have a cold week or two. Don't know how I'll react to cold weather after a few years of India.

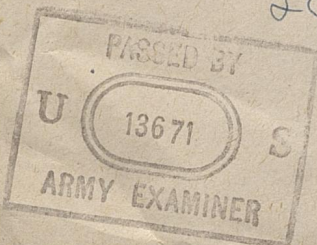
New Year's Eve will be a lonely time I'm afraid. I'll spend the evening thinking of you and hoping that next year the thought will be a reality & that we can coast as usual.

Feel very dull today, dear, & postpone further letter writing until tomorrow

S Sgt David Balatin 35478690  
185th Qm Co.  
APO 886  
40pm. - New York



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



60

28 Dec 41

7

Jayne dear,

Yesterday spent my most interesting day in India. Bicycled all over town seeing points of interest in the afternoon, good exercise and really the best way to go sight seeing. It was a Mohammedan holiday. They have a strange symbolic ceremony, as I understand it, this day commemorates the last great internecine warfare between Mohammedans. They pretend to beat each other as they march to the ~~ocean~~ <sup>ocean</sup> and when they arrive they throw their clubs in the water and embrace each other. They had elaborate floats & did some violent dancing. The smell was awful but the whole thing was interesting. I didn't watch it very long as the procession turned into an out of bounds area.

You remember my mentioning George Small. Well, he told me to look up a friend of his at

the American Consulate here. So I looked him up and he turned out to be a top notch person. His name is Joseph Spoket and he's from Tidharafah. Has been in the Consular Service for about 10 years and is a career diplomat. He's had quite a few stories published, mainly in the Saturday Evening Post. Has a facile mind, is quite handsome, has served in many interesting posts, Cuba, Jordan etc. Knows many famous & infamous people. ~~He~~ His father manufactures olive oil, his conversation sparkles and he's well informed. Holds a Masters & will obtain a P.H.D on completion of his thesis. Summing up, he's quite a guy.

He took me up to his house for a highball & three ~~at~~ friends of his dropped in. One a Swiss, one a Greek &

and an American. The first man of affairs. The Greek runs a large importing business, the Swiss is a big cheese (in ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> couldn't resist) and the American is Standard Oil's general manager in this area. I did more listening than talking. The others left rather early and I spent an hour talking to the host. We covered <sup>some</sup> interesting topics, he stayed clear of anything involving State Department action, but we talked of internal politics, South American economies, American models, <sup>and</sup> of course ~~and~~ officers + Exhibited men. He was very complimentary and told me that he couldn't understand my status in the Army. I won't go into it as you know all about the reasons, but ~~it felt~~ it felt quite good to have a man of his calibre say so many nice things, bolstered the old ego considerably.

He invited me to dinner

Friday evening, and I hope I'll still be here for obvious reasons.

I'll send you my latest forwarding address as soon as I find what it is.

Heard the report over the radio that racing is to be discontinued after Jan. 3rd. Dad really called the turn in having a dispersal sale of his mares & weanlings, I suppose horse values will drop way down for the duration of the ban. Hope it's lifted soon as the dislocation caused must be terrific. I don't think anyone has ever <sup>correctly</sup> estimated the number of people who depend on the horse racing industry for a livelihood, that plus the revenue lost in taxes, plus the tremendous amount of money that will be turned into consumer goods channels to bid for products makes this a rather keen a bit drastic. It looks like a reasonable curtailment

of racing would have been a better course, write and tell me Dad's opinion of this.

I suppose everyone in the states is pretty critical of the administration for this post election shake-up, but I justify it on the following grounds. ① If I don't lose the election, it would have meant defeat for the Democrats, ② I doubt if the <sup>resulting</sup> Republican administration would have had the 'guts' to do what it appears was necessary to bring the war effort to a successful conclusion, therefore although some delay and subterfuge was involved, I think the end justifies the means. That's pretty sketchy, but conveys my thought.

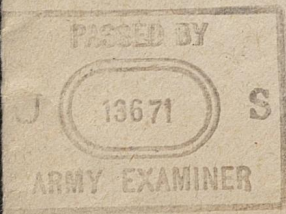
Well honey enough of this wandering & speculating. The thing that's constant in all this mess is that my little woman is solid. I love you  
David



Ssgt David Bolatin 35478690  
185th pm co, Depot Supply  
APO 886, C/O pm, New York



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



7

HEADQUARTERS  
~~REPLACEMENT~~ REPLACEMENT BATTALION

29 Dec 44

8

Jaime dear,

The main event of yesterday was having dinner with my new + new ex friend, there lies a story, at the same time interesting and, to me, ~~is~~ disheartening.

He sent his car for me at seven. We had a highball or three and were joined by a merchant marine officer. The talk before dinner was interesting but rather light, in deference to the m.m. officer who was young, uninformed, surface. The dinner was good, unusual, still don't know what we had but as I said it was good.

Since the regular representative is in the hospital, Joe is now in charge of war shipping administration in addition to his other duties and they talked shipping for a while. Then the conversation went ~~from~~ to war + from there to Hitler + his various devices, and thence to German Jews + from that to the position of Jews in U.S.A.. The occasion hadn't arisen for me to tell Joe that I was Jewish, and at that point I damned well wasn't going to until I'd heard what he had to say. The m.m. officer, named Walter Friedrich was born in Germany, raised in N.Y. and began the ceremonies with the usual, 'some

HEADQUARTERS  
~~SS~~ REPLACEMENT BATTALION

of my best friends' gag and went on to say that as individuals they were O.K., but together they were objectionable because of bad manners, loudness etc. He also objected to clamoriness, cohesiveness, unity of purpose, business acumen. Joe then pointed out that during the depression when 12% of the total of other groups were on relief only  $\frac{1}{10}$  of 1% of Jews were on the relief rolls, <sup>my</sup> which he meant to substantiate Friedrich's claim of cohesiveness. He then made the statement that he anticipated a great deal of post war trouble for the Jews in our country, but was not specific as to why's + wherefores. The whole discussion was full of contradictions. I discounted Friedrich's entirely because of his background + very average mentality, not so much Joe, I've arranged to meet him once more and see if I can find out the basis for his statements and then I'll tell him I'm Jewish. Funny thing isn't it, we Jews are accused of having an inferiority or persecution complex and are accused of seeking our own company too often.

-3-

HEADQUARTERS  
90TH REPLACEMENT BATTALION

and yet here's a perfect example of what can + usually does happen when we do otherwise. Myf sed, I'll tell you the sequel to this when it occurs.

Incidentally the pretext upon which I'm meeting him again is to buy you a star ruby, he knows where I can get one at a good price and is going to help me shop. Fortunately, I haven't spent any <sup>or very little</sup> of my salary for three months since there isn't anything to spend it on and believe I'll have enough to buy you a nice stone. It's for your birthday money and will probably arrive in late February, as I understand parcels are pretty slow. I mailed your cashmere jacket, ivory necklace, little ivory horse and the three manlyps yesterday. I also included a coin bracelet, will you please send it to Shirley when it arrives.

I'll be leaving here soon and my new address is, Replacement Depot #4, APO 213, C/O P.M., N.Y. address my mail there. That's about all for today. I love you very much.

David

S Sgt David Bolotin - 35498690  
Repl. Depot # 4 APO 213  
70 P m - New York



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

8

HEADQUARTERS  
REPLACEMENT BATTALION

31 Dec 44

9  
Jayme dear,

I'm really disappointed, afraid I'll have to back down from the Star Ruby promise temporarily. It seems that the supply of medium priced stones is non-existent at present in Karachi. The only ones I saw were sized at 2000 chips and I suppose could have been bought for 1200, but that's much more than I have, amounts to 8 months salary. I'll have to wait until a better buy presents itself. ~~I'm sorry honey, I'll keep trying.~~

Haavent had any occasion to talk privately with Joe yet so there's nothing to report in that direction. By the way, you'll be safe now in having the magazines sent to my new address at APO 213.

Finally received a letter here. It was written the 8th of Dec. It was a real tonic dear and I enjoyed it.

New Year's eve tonight. I shall spend all of it thinking of you and remembering all the good times we had together in the past. Dart games at 4 A.M., tipsiness, wonderful

- 2 -

HEADQUARTERS  
REPLACEMENT BATTALION

kisses (remnantal, blush, blush), good friends, but mostly just you.

Am going bicycling this afternoon, good exerciser, may go to the Zoo. See all these other fellows going along.

On my way now. Happy new year dear, The only one wish for the next Jan. 1st, it's too obvious to mention.

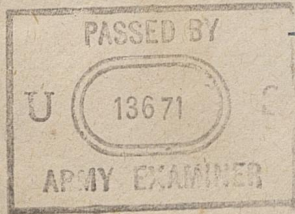
I love you

David

S Sgt David Bolotin, 35478690  
Repl. Depot #4, APO 213  
c/o P.M., New York



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



9