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Camp Barkeley, Texas

Oct
Sept. 3.

Hello Mother.

I finally have gotten around to writing after so long a time. How is every one? I am alright. The weather is cooler here now. We have to wear our "field jockets". We change in to "woolens" the 15th. I think. It rained practically all last week just drizzles most of the time though.

We got paid Thursday. I got \$78.12. after every thing was taken out, such as insurance, Bonds, etc.

How is everything going especially Mela Justis. I guess the "hands"

One usually thinks of the South as the land of cotton, but the West holds great stretches of land adapted to cotton growing, and thus produces a vast amount of Texas cotton. Formerly, West Texas, which is located in the region once called "the Great American desert," was used only by ranchers, but slowly they had to retreat to farmers so that many ranches of the South Plains have given way to the farmers who have turned the once barren plains into fields of cotton and wheat.

do have a time out of him. How is Charlie Sellers doing and does he like to live there? You should get a pretty good Milk Check or is milk still as low a price as before. We don't get much milk here there seems to be a shortage.

If you wouldn't mind I wish you would send me something to eat between meals, such as, apples cookies or anything you can get. Is everything still as scarce as ever or moved.

How is Dad and his teeth doing I hope he wears them and doesn't make an "ass" of himself as "Little Bob" does. How is Bot and "Kathie" getting along?

I have heard from Lyman, Norman and Eloah this week. I have gotten behind with my writing and am trying to catch up.

They must have worked awfully hard to get "Curley" off. I guess "Tom's" got mad at everyone. Wayne said Loman said he had been reported

I guess those drunk's he threw reported him.

Helen said you and Aunt Dess had had some difficulty. What was the matter?

I have worn the heels off one pair of shoes and had them repaired. I am going to send my other pair tomorrow. We do quite a bit of walking, two or three hikes a week.

I worked K.P. last week. It wasn't so bad. It rained that day and the other boys who weren't on K.P. took a hike in the rain.

That's about all. By Bill K.

P.S. I got the packages O.K. both of them. Thanks. Tell all the folks Hello.



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Camp Barkley, Texas

Oct. 13, 43

Hello Mother

Now is everyone at home. I have another cold as does practically everyone else here. I weighed the other night. I weighed 152 lbs. I don't know wheather the scales were right or not.

I hear from Helen about every day. She sent me a carton of "P.M." Cigaretts Monday. I got a letter from you and Marilyn yesterday.

We have been having it rather hard the last week or two, and the next two weeks will be hard also.

We have been taking some long hikes two of 16 miles, 3 or 4 nine

The picture above is a reproduction of a mural adorning a wall of Camp Barkley Service Center. The mural is the work of Corporal Samuel D. Smith, a soldier-artist now attached to the Service Command at Camp Barkley to paint action pictures showing proper use of weapons.

mile hikes, and lots of short ones.

Last week we got down into fox holes and they drove "tanks" over ~~us~~ us. It piled dirt in on some of the boys just a little bit fell in on me.

Monday we crawled under "barbed wire" and they fired live machine gun fire over us. We crawled for about 125 yards. Everyone got along alright except for a few skinned elbows done on the hard ground.

We have changed our eating style ~~we~~ eat family style now, and we get more to eat that way including milk. We have plenty of butter, but not so much sugar.

I guess they are sowing wheat by now, or are they still putting up hay. I have gotten behind the time.

I heard one of the Series ball games the one on Sunday. I guess Wayne was tickled at the outcome, as well as I.

You asked if I recieved your posthogs. I
got them alright, thanks a lot.

I don't know what I want for
Christmas probably something to
eat I don't know of anything else
I ~~must~~ need, anything you all wish
is alright with me.

How is every one at home? Is Dad
alright and how are his teeth getting
along? I got a letter from Charlie
Sellers yesterday. I got one from
Lynman, Norman, and Wayne an
Bivoo. I got one or two of yours
abt there.

That's about all I can think of.
I hope you are feeling fine.

Love Bill



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

Oct. 24. 43.

Hello Mother,

We got back from "Bivouac", yesterday. I have stayed around the hut and slept most of the day. I blistered both my feet on "Bivouac". My feet seem to have spread, and my shoes are too narrow.

My cold is getting better and except for my feet I am alright. We have about another week of training left here, after that I don't know what happens. Someone said a lot of us would be stationed in South Carolina, but one never knows where he will go.

Fort Phantom Hill, established as an army post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos in 1850 and abandoned in 1854, became a noted station on the Butterfield stage line between Missouri and California. This first and longest of all transcontinental mail and passenger routes ran just west of Camp Barkeley. At Fort Phantom Hill the mule-drawn coaches, running always the Comanche gauntlet, used to stop to give passengers a meal of mustard, salt pork, hard bread, black coffee, and to change teams. The Civil War ended use of the Butterfield Trail. The ghosts attached to Fort Phantom Hill by legend are of a later date and not so interesting as the ruins and the river.

I am sorry I haven't written more often,
but just kept putting it off and didn't
realize how far I was behind. I have
been rather busy also.

I got a letter from Earl Hoss and
he told me about Jay's baby also.

I don't blame you about Dessie Morde
They want you to give them stuff, and
then don't want to do anything in
return, and if they do work they "gripe"
about the pay. I got one letter from
them a long time ago.

We were supposed to go out in
the field for "four hrs" tonight 7
until 11 O'clock. It rained and they
called it off.

I am doing alright except for my
cold.

By: good luck

From Bill.

FROM Pvt. John B. King
A.S.N. 34739241



MESSAGE CONTINUED HERE



Mrs H.C. King
Afton, Tennessee
Rt - 1



Hello Mother.

We have been in
Memphis all day. It
is rather cool here.
We leave here tonight
at 9.00 I think.

I stayed around the
station all day and
slept most of the time
That's all I can
think off now I'll
write again soon

By. Bill

Pvt John B. King ASN. 24739261

Co. C. 3rd Repl. Bn.

Pittsburg Replacement Depot

Pittsburg, California

(3) (2) 15 Nov 1913

(1) postcard 9 Nov 1943

mother
Gerald Jr



REPLACEMENT DEPOT BR.

Mrs. H.C. King
Afton, Tennessee

Rt. - 1



PITTSBURG REPLACEMENT DEPOT
PITTSBURG CALIFORNIA

Nov. 12, 43.

Hella Mather

How are you all? I am O.K. We arrived here Sat. morning at 7.30. I don't know how long we will be here.

It is a rather pretty place. There are a few more trees here than in Texas. We are located about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north east of San Francisco.

We were in Los Angeles about 2 hrs. We didn't go anyplace but around the depot. It was really a large outfit.

I believe it is warmer here than in Texas. It isn't as hot at noon as Texas but it isn't as cool in the morning.

or nights.

I talked to a boy who stayed out his "fourlooph" at "Barkeley", he said Luke went to New Jersey he thought.

The "eats" here are quiet a bit better than at Berkeley. We have had steak twice already, and we only had it once during our whole stay at Berkeley. There isn't any dust here either.

There is quiet a bunch of the boys from Berkeley here, and lots of boys came in from scattered camps all over the country.

My Barrock's boys haven't arrived yet I guess they will be in pretty soon. Dobson has his already, but he sent his on Sunday.

I hope you are all doing fine, that's about all I can think of now.

By Bill



Nov. 28, '33

Hello Mother.

How are you all? I am ok. sorry I haven't written sooner. ~~but~~ I have moved from [redacted], but still am on the west coast.

My feet are alright, the blister that I had opened never bothered me anymore. I went to have my feet looked at Friday. I thought I had athlete's foot, but they said I didn't have it.

I got a letter from Helen yesterday and one from you. Helen's was an air mail letter. I had about 7 letters at Pitt. I hadn't called for them in 2 or 4 days. The fellow said he was about to send

them to another post office.

We had a really fine meal Thanksgiving by far the best since I have been in the army. Turkey, Dressing, Creamed Potatoes, Nuts, Candy bars, Fruit Punch etc. I liked it very much.

We went on a hike Fri. That was the reason I had to have my feet examined. They thought the old blisters were new ones. I told them better.

I slept late one morning and had to be "runner". I did a few little odd jobs for the "first sergeant". ~~Carryd~~. Carried a few messages etc. I woke up but went back to sleep. I have gotten up ever since.

Will By Bill



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

Nov. 31 - 43

Hello Mother

How are you all? I am alright.
We have finished our training
here and will be leaving soon.
They have asked us to tell you
all not to write us here anymore,
so don't write until you hear
from me.

We took a 2 1/2 mile hike Fri.
I got along better on it than I
did on "bivouac". We really walked
more than 28 miles. It is the
longest hike that anyone takes
here, longer than the "Infantry or
"Armoured Div." - over

One usually thinks of the South as the land of cotton, but the West holds great stretches of land adapted to cotton growing, and thus produces a vast amount of Texas cotton. Formerly, West Texas, which is located in the region once called "the Great American desert," was used only by ranchers, but slowly they had to retreat to farmers so that many ranches of the South Plains have given way to the farmers who have turned the once barren plains into fields of cotton and wheat.

That's about all I can think of. Oh yes!
I got your box a.k. I also got a
box of cookies from Helen and
a box of Candy from Marilyn.

How is Dad, and his teeth by now?
Are you feeding lots of hogs this year?
You said you had been working in
the tobacco is it good as medicine?

Well I have run out of anything to
say so
Bye from Bill

Pvt John B. King A.S.N. 34739261
Co B. 62nd Med Bn M.P.T.O.
Camp Berkeley, Texas.



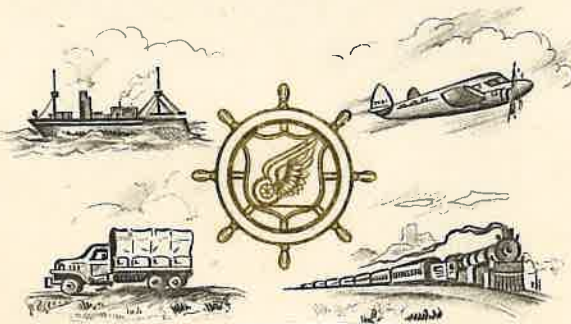
Mrs G.C. King
Afton, Tennessee

Rt- 1

(3)

28
31 NOV
1 DEC

1943



Dec. 1, 43

Hello Mother.

How is every one? I am ok. I traded shoes today. I wanted to trade my B's for C's, but the officer said they were too wide, so I got A's. I don't know whether they will fit any better or not. I haven't tried them on a hike yet.

I got a letter from Dean Mom.
I have just written to Wayne, and I am going to write to Dean and Helen. It is about time for "lights out" and I may have to postpone some of the writing.

How are Dad and Charlie getting along with their work? I guess the wheat is through with by now.

Did Lamora's boat get alright. He pulled a
kind of "Hoss" Brown trick didn't he?

Have you heard anything from Flunar,
and what did Geneva do? Who was down
Thanksgiving? I think Helen said she was
coming.

I can't think of anything to write, so I'll
quit. Oh yes! I have been going to the
show quite a bit. I saw Deanne Durbin
tonight in "His Butler's Sister". It was
a good picture.

It's 10.00 o'clock so I'd better stop.
I'll write more soon.

Bye Bill

I weighed Monday
and I weigh 154.
I still haven't gained much

Bye.

Put. John B. King 34739561
A.P.O 72 79% Post Master
San Francisco, Calif.

2 Dec 1943

Free

Pvt. John B King 34739561
A.P.O. 7279 % Postmaster
San Francisco Calif.

Mrs S.C. King
Afton Tennessee
Rt - 1



Dec. 2, 43

Dear Mather

How is everyone? Dean said Dad had a little difficulty over timber or something.

Is it cold at home yet. I suppose it is, its the time of year for cold weather anyway. Has it snowed yet.

It must be cold as you wouldn't have killed hogs.

I have increased my money for bonds. I was only taking \$3.75. I have raised it to \$18.75 on a Bond a month. It starts in January.

I imagine the Millers are homesick. I came through Tulsa. The land around there didn't look so hot. Tennessee is much better looking. The soil there was a red, sandy color, and it seemed to be rather dry there too.

I suppose they will all be back, sooner

or later.

California was the only place that looked like anything. All the other states were about like Texas. Arizona was probably worse than Texas if that's possible.

I heard from Dean today she was telling of her rabbit hunt. How many did they kill.

I guess hogs are cheap. I saw in the paper where they had cut the points down. We have been having some lamb chops, I didn't care for them. The meals here are all rather good. Much better than at "Berkeley".

Where did Hartsell go or do you know? I suppose Hawk will get off again, and how did you find out W. Doty had me fixed up.

Well Bye Bill.