

Pat John B. King

9 Aug 1943

A.S.N. 347 39 26

CO B 62th BN. M.R.T.C.

Camp Berkeley Texas

U.S. Army



Free

Mrs G.C. King
Afton Tenn
Rt - 1



FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

Aug. 9, 43

Helo Mather

I have moved to Camp
Barkley. We left Fort Oglethorpe
Fri. Nite at 8:00 o'clock, arrived
here at 11:30 o'clock Sun. Nite.

We come across the Miss. R.
at Memphis, through Arkansas
and into Texas, After we crossed
the river that was the driest
Country I have ever seen,.

We stopped at a little town
in Texas yesterday and some
little boys come over and were
talking to us, they said it
had been 112 in the shade there
this summer. They said it was
over 100 that day.



FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

We stopped in Fort Worth and got off the train. We walked over the town for about 2 hrs.

They also let us off at Brownwood Texas for about three hours. We stopped in at a Red Cross Canteen and drank punch and ate Cookies.

There is not a full grown tree in Texas ^{or} if there is I didn't see it. The trees are little scraggy bushes. I saw some Jack Rabbits Sun. afternoon. That's about all I can think of except it's terribly hot and the water is likewise.

Like Jones is sitting on the same bunk as I am he is laughing and howling himself a time as usual.

Oh 'yes.' Cops Kedwell left Ga. before we did I don't know where he is.



FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

Cop never did get much better
Luke teased him terribly. Luke J.
or in case you don't know who I am
talking about it's Luke Jones. He
worked K.P. 4 days. I was
supposed to go one morning but
they rounded up some other boys
and I got out of it. I broke
beans about an hour and a half
one day.

Well I'll say so long for now
I'll write again soon. I haven't
written anyone but you yet
I'll write the others soon

So Long Mother
from Bill K.



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

aug 22. 1943

"Your Birth day"

Hello Mather

I hope your are all right. I am ok. except for a slight cold. How's Dad, tell him hello and many thanks for the watch, and billfold.

"I put my hat and shirts in the "Red Cross" box, I have my slippers with me, also my "under wear".

I was sorry to hear about Jim Gass dying, and also of Reese Passing for the army. If Mike and Ray aren't tickled they should be.

Don't worry about me, I am getting along alright.

One hundred and twenty-five miles east of Camp Barkeley, "The West Begins"—so Fort Worth advertises. It is the chief livestock market, packing, boot-manufacturing and rodeo center of the Southwest. Men wearing Stetson hats, quite a few of which have been sweated through, can be seen any day walking the cement as if they missed soft ground. The Trinity River, adjacent park lands and Lake Worth, with cow country hills stretching beyond, combine into delightful landscape. A mounted Longhorn steer stands in the station at the air field. A stupendous plant for manufacturing bombers works night and day on beyond.

Nellie, Opal and Drew can kiss
my A-- . As you know there are
no two worthless shits than
Wayne and Carl but I like them
and I am afraid their ^(N. O. + D. O.)stalls will
come to no avail. If I am not
better than any of the three above
I'll 'drive out and quit'. ha! ha!

You can send me a little
money if you wish as we
won't get paid until the 10th
of Sept. and won't get a very
large check then otherwise I
have everything I need I
think.

The weather is somewhat cooler
now, but is still rather hot.

I hope you had a happy birthday
Write and tell me all the news

By.

Love Bill.

or Pvt. John B. King

We have to take the 'Basic Training'
before we can tell what we can get
into like O.C.D. etc. "By again" Bill.



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

[1943]

Sun. Aug. 29.

Hello Mother.

I am taking my "basic training" at the "Medical Replacement Training Center" of Camp Barkeley. At the present time I am training to be a "Medical Soldier". I don't know wheather I can get into anything else or not. I am going to try though.

I made enough on my "I. I." test to try for "O. C. S." if I make good on the tests etc. and things here.

My cold is better now, but it is still rather hot here.

Abilene, "Home of Camp Barkeley," rising up from the prairie, is located on the great plateau of the Panhandle. Back in 1852 there was an attempt at settlement of the Abilene area when the United States army established Fort Phantom Hill—16 miles from the present city. This venture failing, it was not until 1881 that Abilene came into being because a railroad was built and it served as the terminus of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Her name was borrowed and bestowed on her by a committee of ranchers, who, accustomed to the long trek to the celebrated cattle shipping point, Abilene, Kansas, hoped to make their new Abilene their destination.

We went on a "Bivouac" yesterday
8 miles out and 8 back. Then we
walked about five around over the
hills out there. We started about six
o'clock and got back after 9. We
were gone from camp for 15 hrs.

We had those army ration packages
to eat, One each for Breakfast,
Dinner & Lunch. They are called
K. rations very compact.

We were issued more cloaths today.
I got an overcoat, pair of leggings
1. Pair of cotton pants and 1 shirt also
cotton.

It is terribly sandy here & have
gotter sand all in my Pen. I
shall have to wash it out.

I guess everything is all right
at home, I hope. Is Charlie Sellers
moving in the W.M. house, If
so where is "Shine" going.

I got a letter from Helen today
Bobby wrote me a letter too. Helen
said he went to sleep writing it.

I have gotten two letters from
Marlyn but none from Dean. I
have written to Dean twice. I
don't know whether she got them
or not.

I guess Wayne and Earl will do
a lot of running around now that
Wayne is driving. I haven't written
to Wayne yet. I'll have to send
him a card I guess.

There is a little old fellow in our
hut. He weighs 103 lbs, and has
been on "sick call" three or four
times. He uses the funniest expressions.
When he talks of getting weak, he
says of himself. I went down
like a "one egg pudding".

Well ~~or~~

I'll close By
Bill.



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Camp Berkeley, Texas

Hello Mother.

Sept. 1, 43.

How are you, Dad and Dean?
I'll write this to all of you.

I got the money alright, thanks.

Dean wanted to know if I needed
her 18 stamps. I don't think I'll
need it. She can go ahead and use
it.

I got a letter from Helen and
Bobby today. Bobby can write a
little he wrote B O B.. several times
on his letter.

Dean wanted to know if I would
~~remain~~ remain in the "Medical Dept."
Probably not. A lot of us will get
into something else.

Abilene, town nearest Camp Berkeley, is a city of schools, boasting two colleges and a University. Abilene Christian College, a senior college, supported by the Churches of Christ in the United States, is co-educational and does its part to add college spirit to the town. Hardin-Simmons University, home of the world-famous "Cowboy Band," has built its traditions around Western hospitality. McMurry College, which produces the "McMurry Indians" in sports and other collegiate affairs, makes the third college for the city of Abilene.

Do you all still hear from Marlie Miller's folks. I guess they will be coming back pretty soon if they are coming.

Loke Jones got a letter from "Cops" Kidwell today. Cops is worried about Charlotte getting his money. He called her a "slut".

How's Wayne and Earl getting along. Does Opal, and Drew still lecture Wayne. They really are good ones to listen too.

You said Wayland was sick. What was the matter with him, and did he get alright?

That's about all I can think of now. I am alright, my cold is better, I haven't any blistered feet, I guess I have been lucky as I am about the only one who hasn't. I had better knock on wood now I guess.

Well Bye

From Bill King



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

Sept. 4, '73.

Hello all.

I hope you are feeling fine, I am alright.

We had a rather hard day today. Senator Connally was at Camp Barkeley so they tried to put on a show for him we had to go over the "obstacle course" twice and were preparing to go again he drove through about that time turned around and drove off with little more than a glance.

It rained a little today and is rather cool. I am glad of that.

We can stand a little cool weather now. I am going to try and catch up on my sleep tomorrow if possible.



THE SIX FLAGS UNDER WHICH TEXAS HAS BEEN GOVERNED

When Texas achieved independence—paid for with blood—from Mexico in 1836, buffaloes grazed where Austin now stands. Since 1839 it has been the capital, first of the Republic of Texas, then, after Texas joined the Union (1845), of the state. Major state institution located in Austin is University of Texas, owning 2,000,000 acres of oil and grazing lands west of the Pecos. The state capitol, shown above, dating back to 80's and made of native granite, was paid for with 3,000,000 acres of public land that became famous as XIT Ranch. Old Land Office Building on Capitol grounds is now a museum.

a lot of the boys signed the Payroll today, but the group from Ft. Oglethorpe didn't get to sign. I don't know when we will get paid. I am going to make what money I have last as long as possible. I don't suppose I'll have to write home for any more soon anyway.

I wrote Wayne and Dessie Inoode a letter last night but didn't mail them I'll mail them when I mail this one.

I have about run out of anything to say. Oh! yes there is "Curley". I guess he will about "kick the bucket," if he has to go.

The army is about all he is fit for though. They will really get the kinks out of him here. They keep you on the go all the time. We get off at 5 o'clock and don't have to be in bed until 11.00

We usually go to the P.X. and tank up on "Ice Cream, and Dopes" candy and then play pool in the "Day room" free.

By Bill



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

Sept. 13, 43

Hello Mother.

It is about time for the lights to go out, I am dating this on mon., but am writing Son. night the 12th.

How are you all? I am O.K. I had to work K.P. Sat. I had it rather easy in fact I laid down on a bench and went to sleep they didn't catch me, so I was rather lucky.

We have had some force marches this week for about 4 miles

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.

We really walk fast. The boys in the back had to run practically all the way. The tall fellows are in front so I have it easier than the ones on the back. Some of them can't take it. I have made them all right so far.

I think we have a hard week coming up. So I rested today. I still yet haven't been to town. I don't think I will go.

We are supposed to finish our training here sometime in Oct. I may get to come home then. There is no need in your coming to see me. It is a small town and "over crowded".

There was a boy in our hut who left last night and hasn't come back yet. I guess it will go hard with him when they catch him. He is a Mexican.

I heard from Helen and Bobby Sat. I didn't go to "Mail Call" today. So I don't know whether I have any or not.

How's Wayne and Carl getting along. I haven't heard from Wayne yet.

How's Wayland! Write me all the news. Tell Dean I'll write her when I get time. When or has she already started back to school.

The kids here think the war will be over soon, I think they are optimistic though.

Well Bye

Bill



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

Sept. 16, 43.

Hello Mother

How are you all? I am a little tired we went for a hike and also went over the obstacle course. We must have gone over the thing 6 or 7 times already or more.

I would like for you to send me the "Mc Calls", and also some white handkerchiefs, some light or medium woolen socks, if you can't get that kind, get me some of those "athletic" socks like I wore at home.

Abilene, "Home of Camp Barkeley," rising up from the prairie, is located on the great plateau of the Panhandle. Back in 1852 there was an attempt at settlement of the Abilene area when the United States army established Fort Phantom Hill—16 miles from the present city. This venture failing, it was not until 1881 that Abilene came into being because a railroad was built and it served as the terminus of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Her name was borrowed and bestowed on her by a committee of ranchers, who, accustomed to the long trek to the celebrated cattle shipping point, Abilene, Kansas, hoped to make their new Abilene their destination.

you might send me about "ten dollars" also. We haven't yet got paid. We are supposed to get paid the end of the month. I guess thats about all I'll need right at the present.

How's everything going back there? Did Norman get off? I guess they meddled with Lyman as soon as I got gone. If they get everyone in I guess they will be happy.

How is Charlie doing? I guess he is driving Dad now.

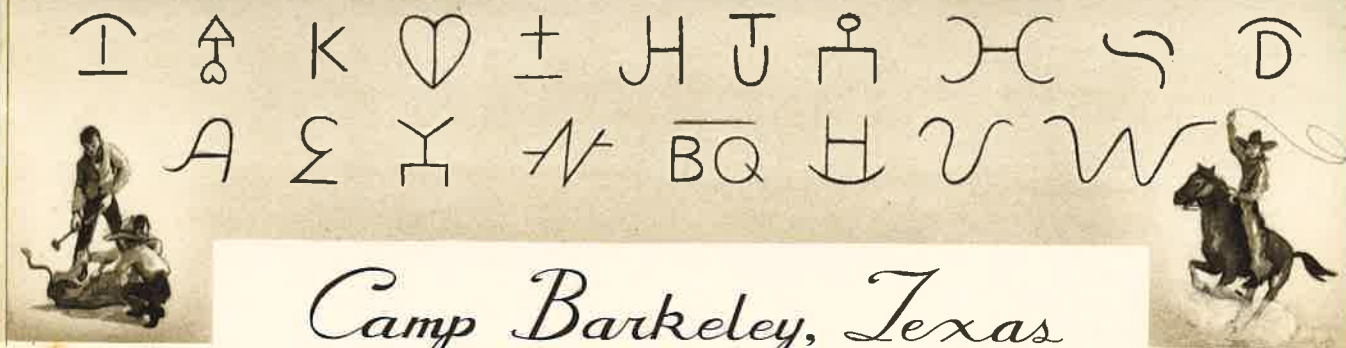
How are crops good or medium, you said it had been dry so I guess they are medium.

Well send me those things if you can. (McCalli, Hankies, soap and a little money.

Tell me all the news

By.

By Bill



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Camp Barkeley, Texas

Sept. 20, '43.

Hello Mother

How is everyone? So Dad is getting false teeth. I guess Charles Brown has a lot to say about that, he always talked about what "Little Bob" said. I hope Dad gets along alright with them.

How was the tobacco, this year?

Are hogs and cattle selling good. They should be. We have lots of meat but it is poor grade stuff especially the beef. I saw some Angus cattle Fri we were on a 9 mile hike. They must have been grades or scrub angus they didn't look so good.

A brand is a mark burned on live stock with a hot iron. It establishes the owner's claim to his cattle and identifies them wherever they may stray. All legitimate brands are legally recorded. They are the heraldry of the range. Ranches are often named for brands, like the JA, Straddlebug, T Anchor ranches. A cowboy represents his brand, like the SMS Kid. In general, brands are made of three components: letters, figures, pictures. They are smaller, simpler now than they were during open range days. They are read from left to right and from top to bottom. Some Texas brands are here reproduced.

I got a letter from Wayne today, and one from Clark Son. I got a Card from Betty Jean Son. I got five letters Son.

I guess I will forget how to drive a car, Marilyn said she had about forgotten. Did they ever get a car or are they going to. ~~Wayne said~~

Wayne said Lamon "thats the way he spelled it," Had to go the 8th. Did he mean Lamon Malone. How does Lyman stand now.

How are Ula and Charlie S. doing working hard I guess. Are any of the "renters" leaving and, who are the new ones. Keep me informed, and how about "Kathy" or Katherine did she leave? As if she ever would.

How come you don't get more gas? Did they cut down on your "C" books, or what happened.

Helen said "she hadn't been feeling well what's wrong with her. I guess she

Worries herself down.

Marlyn wrote and told me not to be homesick. I haven't been homesick, of course I would like to be at home but I haven't thought anything about it.

Some of the boys "mope" around all the time. I don't know why she thought I was homesick. I guess it was because I said I didn't like here. This is the awfulest, "pardon the english": place there has ever been, no grass, trees, water, or anything but sand, nobody likes here.

I get along as well as anybody. I am "kinda" getting used to it now. that it's getting cooler it won't be so hot, and we are getting pretty far along in our training. we won't be here so much longer.

I hope you are feeling alright, does your shoulder still bother you.

His is Anne and Min K. now they should feel better toward

you now.

There was a little boy here who was only seventeen he came in when he was sixteen. They sent him to another co. to go to school. He was a "smart" or hateful little shit nobody liked him, they were glad to be rid of him.

I go to see a few shows about once a week is all I go. I saw "Winter Time" or something last night Jack O'bie, Sonya Heina, Cesar Romero, It was very good.

Well By
Bill.