Columbus, O.
Oct. 18, '43

Dear Mother and Dad:

I received your letter Fri., but as you see, have done nothing about it until now. I was pleased to hear that you have everything prepared for the moving. It will probably do John some good to have a change in surroundings.

As to the Halloween week end, I am all for it, of course. It is up to you to contact Kenton and arrange the date. Paul has suggested that if you have not yet got Kenton's address (I don't have it yet) try calling information in Louisville, and perhaps they could give you the street no. I suppose it is quite true that one more will not make too much difference. I had forgotten Sk. P., but want Paul to meet him very much, so that is to my liking. Grandpa can show off his languages. You see, Paul's grandfather on his father's side served 22 years as a consul to Morocco therefore having quite a knowledge of languages himself. Deceased now, however.

When you contact Kenton, write me concerning the date, which I believe would be the Fri 29th. If possible, it would be nice if you could meet us at Wilmington. However, if you are busy, or gas is low, it would be no hardship for us to come by way of Chillicothe.

I hope John has improved somewhat. I wrote him the promised letter, but waited several days. Perhaps it pleased him. Concerning the stamps, it is of course up to John about selling, but unless he needs the money I see no need for it. After all, one could hardly get their true value, and I look for an increase in value later, after the war. Any way I think they should remain in the family as relics if nothing else, always having that strong Atwood trait of revering something old and familiar.

John should have things much more handy for him in his new surroundings. I hope no one has to reshovel out the coal from his cellar that I so painstakingly put there. I seems to me a very real possibility, due to the shortage and all!

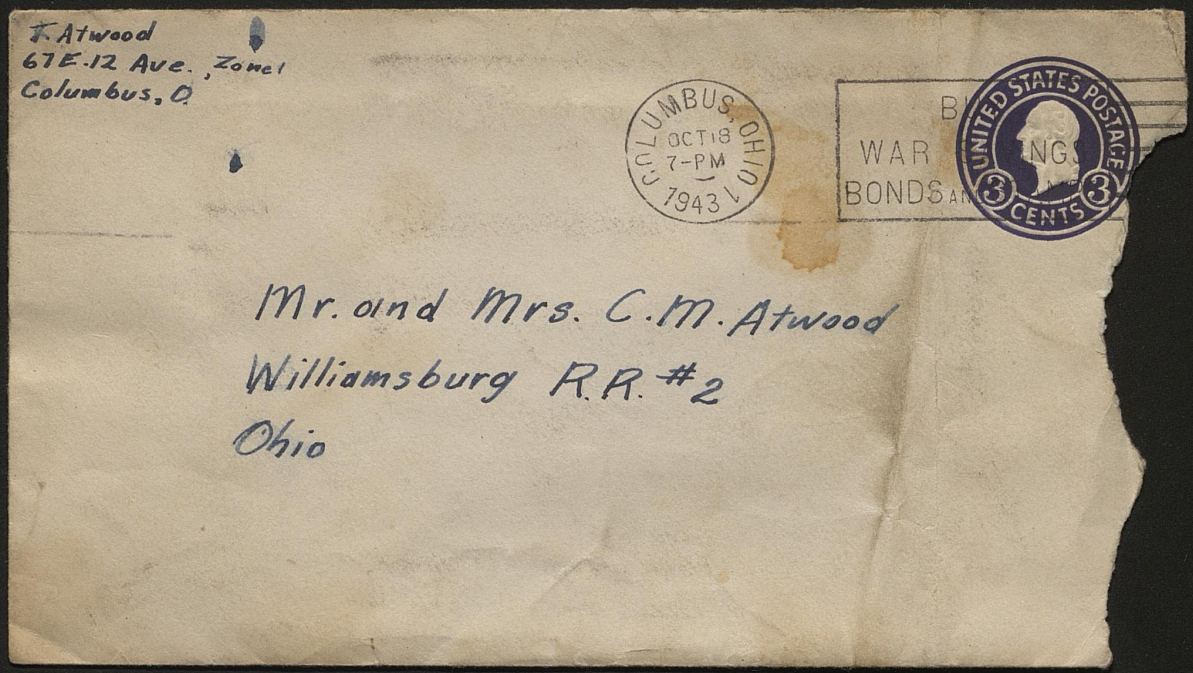
Matt's death was quite a shock. Not so much the shock of her dying but rather the surprise that Doc had outlived her. After all, Matt was never known to get down in the road, as Doc was famous for doing. I suppose the funeral was really something, rather large, for Doc and Matt were a well known team.

I see that you can now shoot rabbits, dad. If shells are not obtainable, don't forget there are adozen or so cartiges upstairs, whether or not they are the proper guage, I do not know.

Everything is going well here. The Indian summer has abruptly ended, cold weather and rain arriving simultaneously a few days ago. The box was sent Fri. and will probably arrive about the same time as this letter. Till I hear from you again,

Your son

James

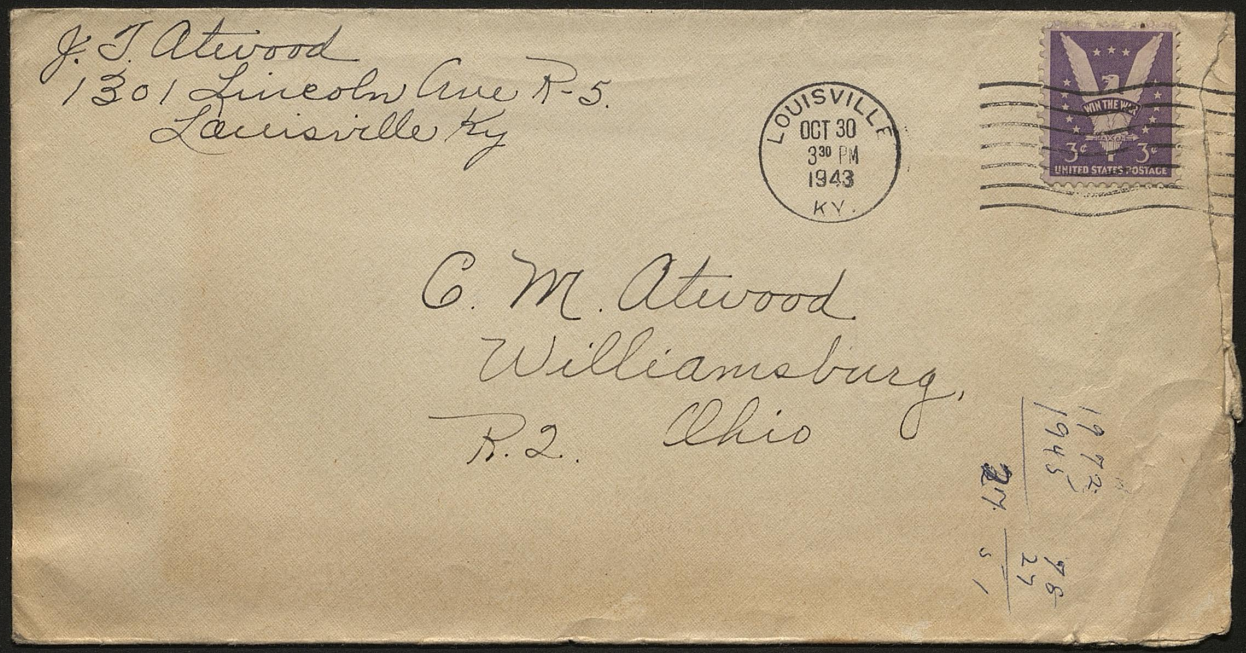

T. Atwood
67E. 12 Ave., Zone 1
Columbus, O.
COLUMBUS, OHIO
OCT 18
7-PM
1943
WAR
BONDS
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3
CENTS
3
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

[Postmarked Oct. 30, 1943]

This letter was opend by mistake
By James Atwood. living one block
of Algonquin Parkway on Lincoln,
Ave. If I'd known of the Couple
you refer too would of delivered
the letter Personally.

Hoping You will understand.

Resp. Yours
James Atwood.



J. T. Atwood
1301 Lincoln Ave R-5.
Louisville Ky

LOUISVILLE
OCT 30
3:30 PM
1943
KY.

WIN THE WAR
3¢ 3¢
UNITED STATES POSTAGE

C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg,
R. 2. Ohio

1943
1945

Nov. 19, 1943

Dear Mother and Dad:

Please forgive me for being rather lax as to letter writing, but I have been rather busy lately with my various activities. I should have written you sooner about my being unable to visit home this week end. If the mails are super-swift you might get my letter tomorrow

I hope you enjoy having Harry over the week end and that everything goes as planned. I imagine Harry is a person one likes to have around the farm; probably he is one who desires to make himself useful. From mother's description of your butchering trials, I should think more persons on the job would be very much appreciated. I'm very sorry not to be able to enjoy some of that fresh-killed pork, but I think it should stay preserved for me until after the quarter's end.

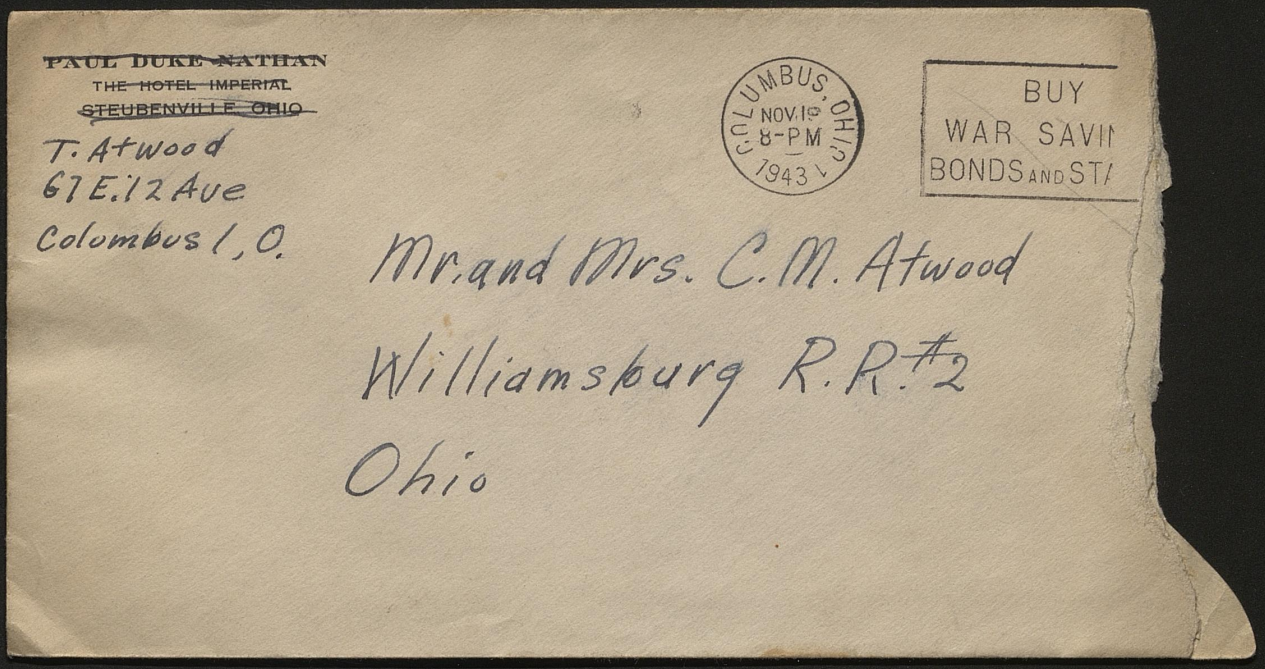
From mother's post card it appears that John's estate was none too large, which

if true, was to be expected. Just so there were no debts to be paid. Here's hoping you get everything settled efficiently and quickly.

There is not too much of importance to report here. However, the weather is one exception. It seems Indian Summer has come back for a few days. While not too warm, the weather feels quite spring-like with the when compared to our frigid windy days last week.

It has been rumored that our quarter will end one week earlier this time. The reason is apparently to ease the situation for instructors in the College of Engr. since the Army plans an expansion of student Engrs. The change in date is supposed to put the Army and Civilian engineers on the same schedule, or something of the sort. This will not effect me especially, since it was agreed, I believe, that this would have to be my last quarter of school. The date change will make it a bit harder to complete my ~~school~~ Chem. lab work and final review, however. This is one reason why I thought it best to remain here until the quarter ends. Most letters

Thomas


PAUL DUKE NATHAN
THE HOTEL IMPERIAL
STEUBENVILLE, OHIO
T. Atwood
67 E. 12 Ave
Columbus 1, O.
COLUMBUS, OHIO
NOV 1
8-PM
1943
BUY
WAR SAVI
BONDS AND ST
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Nov. 25, 43

Dear Mother and Dad:

Today is the great holiday, but the majority of students here feel slightly glum and cheated of their regular Thanksgiving cheer. Since there is to be school both before and after the 25th, accompanied with the University ruling prohibiting the cutting of classes on the days pre-before and after a holiday, there are very few students living outside the city able to break away for a happy visit home.

I trust you will have a pleasant dinner at home. Perhaps you have invited someone. Up here, I may be able to get a few slices of turkey, for a price; but I'm sure the home cooking could hardly be equaled by any of the restaurant dishes.

The quarter change has become official now. Our finals are to be held the last two days of our last school week namely the 9th and 18th of December. However, the Chemistry department has decided to allow the Quantitative labs to remain open until the 18th. If I do not have sufficient lab points for a good Chemistry grade, I may stay on for another week spending a great deal of time exclusively in lab. By this means I should be able to run several experiments, since I would not be disturbed by other classes.

Mother's letter arrived the 24th. I am quite sorry to hear of your accident with the butchering, dad. Ruptures can sometimes be quite serious and bothersome things. If there is substantial chance that a six-months trial of the truss may bring favorable results, and also that a 6 months wait would not affect the chances for a successful operation, I would think the truss very worth while. However, I'm quite

hardly
sure Dr. Rapp and the truss man are in happy and complete agreement on these points, simply because they both want to do business, I suppose. This all should make a decision of exactly what to do rather difficult.

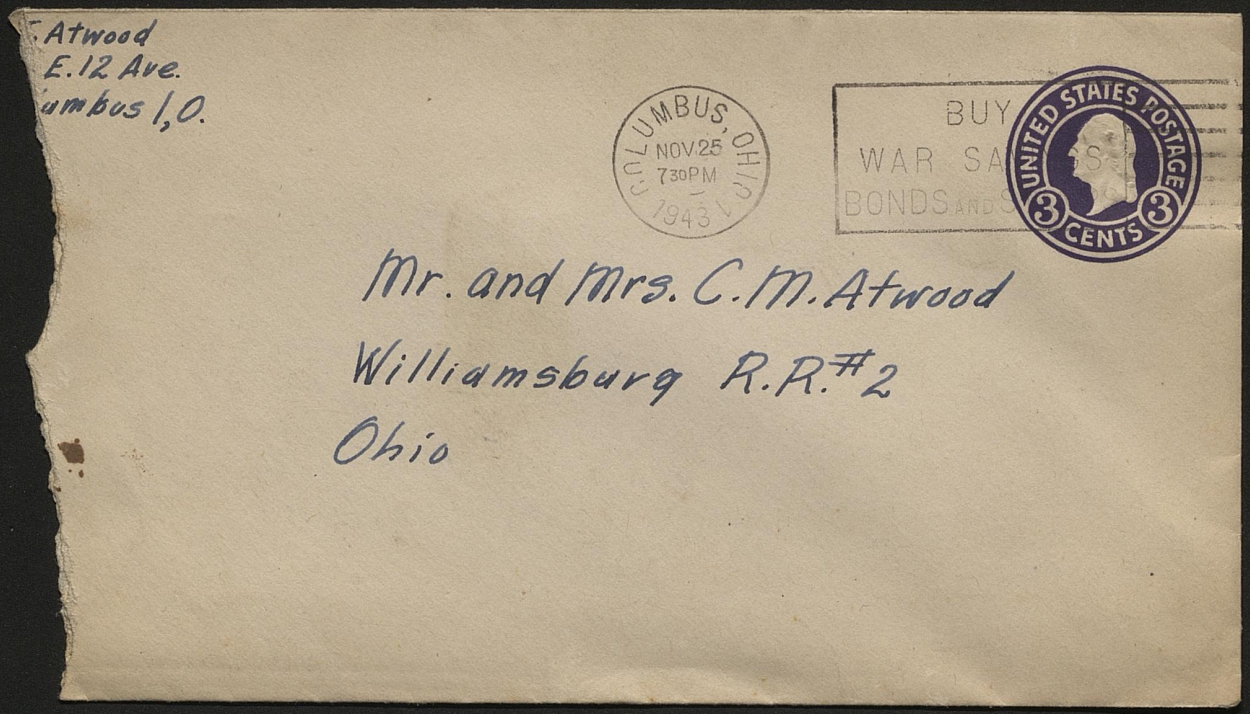
Please write me telling of Mr. Cramer's success with the grandfather's clock. I should not think there should be too much trouble in re-fixing it, since the trouble apparently was only ~~in~~ with the weights and not with the works. If the clock has been acquired by you, it should lend a bit of class to the surroundings. All I can say is, don't let the bell chiming keep you awake, ~~for~~ as it was known to have affected Bill Tenter, I believe.

It is quite sad, but the time again has come to pay my room rent, & shall therefore have to write a $15.00 check on the 27th. My balance in the bank book has decreased to less than $5.00, although I have besides that $10.00 in cash. This will necessitate a deposit of money in the bank, which I hope will ~~be~~ not be too difficult. One nice thing is, that at the end of the quarter there is a rebreak & the usual orders, the university gives me money, $20.00 in the form of a refund on my army uniform.

I intend to write Harry a letter expressing my thanks for his can of arrowheads. By this time there should be a marvelous collection sitting about the house, and being slightly in the way, if I am to judge from ~~the~~ conditions when I was there last.

This will have to do for now.

Yours ever
Thomas


C. Atwood
E. 12 Ave.
umbus 1, O.
COLUMBUS, OHIO
NOV 25
7 30 PM
1943
BUY
WAR SA
BONDS AND
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Ft. Thomas, Ky.
Jan. 3, 43

Dear Mother and Dad:

Everything has gone quite smoothly since you left me outside the barracks. First, I was escorted to dear old Co. "D" to deposit luggage. All other E.R.C's who had arrived were gathered together, and we all went to their huge cafeteria, or mess hall, for the noon feed.

In the afternoon we received another physical similar to the one I had already had at Ft. Hayes. Nothing unusual resulted from this supplementary exam, except that it seems the eyes no longer test as good now as previously. When Reed gave me glasses, and at my previous physical, the eyes tested 20/30; now they test 20/40 without glasses. 20/20 corrected,

of course.

After this, more food was on tap. It is quite good so far. I see no cause for complaint as yet. Most noticeable were the huge quantities of steak being dished out! The Army seems to have an unlimited supply.

As yet I have received no uniform. We are to get some perhaps tomorrow, or the next day. The next few days will be spent by us absorbing a "processing" treatment, consisting of the Latest I.Q. tests and various shots and inoculations. Within 10 days the rule is that we are to be shipped overseas, with no knowledge of where until we arrive.

If we remain here throughout the week, as I suspect we will, it has been the general

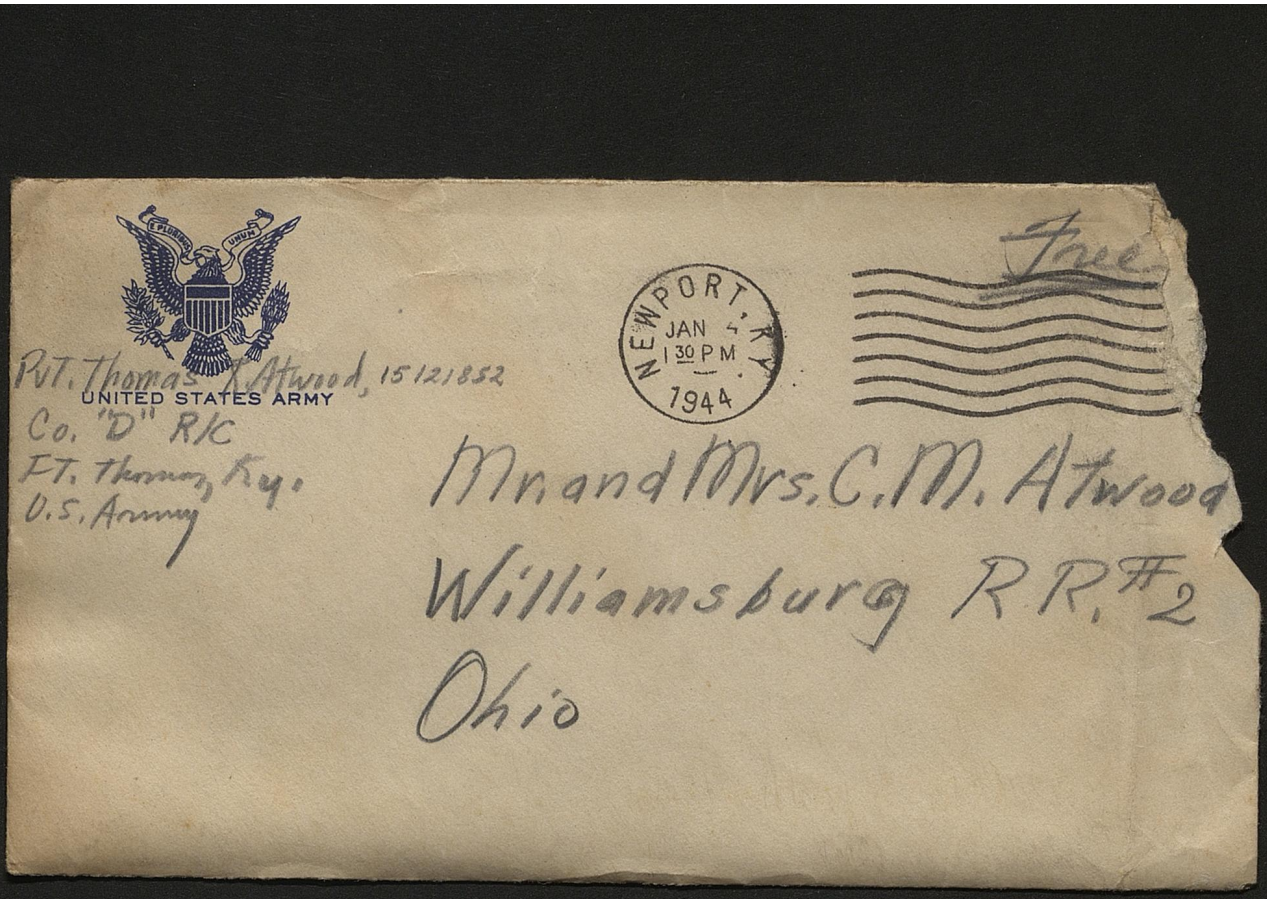
rule heretofore to let the new recruits off Sat. night at 6:00. They must be back by 11:00 Sun. night, which would make it quite convenient for me to come home Sat. and spend most Sun. with you. In case of such development, I shall call when convenient, to let Papa know when to meet me at Milford. You see, it may not be that I will know for sure of the 6:00 Sat. arrangement before Sat at 6:00, but I will be sure to call when possible.

It might be a good idea to include my ration books with your next letter. As yet, I have not been asked for mine, but expect to be asked at any moment.

This should be enough for now.

Love xxx

Thomas


UNITED STATES ARMY
Pvt. Thomas A. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D" R/C
Ft. Thomas, Ky.
U.S. Army
NEWPORT, KY.
JAN 4
1 30 P.M.
1944
Free
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Louisville,
Jan 9, 1943

Dear Dad:

We are having a very white (one week after new year's) with several inches of snow on the ground. I haven't been out in it yet, however, as I stayed in with a cold. It seems to be getting better.

Thank you for the Christmas presents - they came in very handy for us.

I hope Tommy managed to get his uniform so that he could get out for a weekend - if he did he probably came home to visit. He has no doubt told you about the scarcity of uniforms in Ft. Thomas.

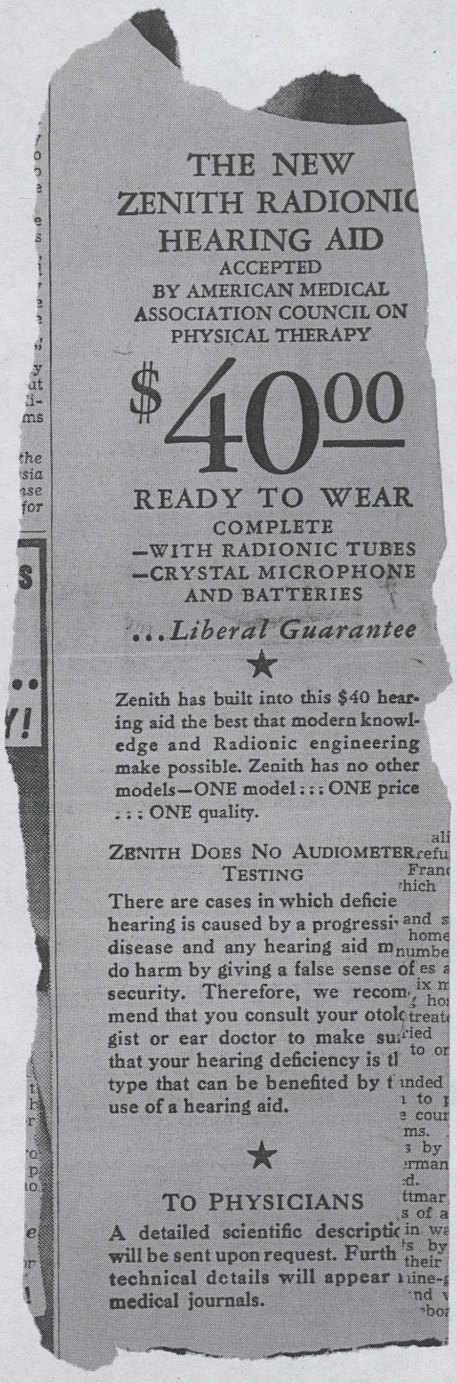
Practically all of the needles fell off of our Christmas tree on New Year's Eve, so we discarded it on New Year's day. Tommy probably told you that it was quite a fine looking tree while it had its leaves.

Kitty was clean for Tommy's visit, but has managed to get pot black again. We haven't fed him the sardines yet.

We are having a roast chicken for dinner to-day - since it weighs five pounds we should get several days of eating out of it. Kitty has been getting various concoctions during the preparation and is quite hobby about it all. Chicken (or turkey) seems to be his favorite food.

A new, cheap hearing aid has at last been developed and is being demonstrated in Louisville from for-day on. This would be the thing for Harry, perhaps, and no doubt it is being demonstrated in Cincinnati so that he could try it before buying.

Yours son,
Kenton



THE NEW ZENITH RADIONIC HEARING AID

ACCEPTED BY AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL THERAPY

$40.00

READY TO WEAR

COMPLETE
—WITH RADIONIC TUBES
—CRYSTAL MICROPHONE
AND BATTERIES

...Liberal Guarantee

★

Zenith has built into this $40 hearing aid the best that modern knowledge and Radionic engineering make possible. Zenith has no other models—ONE model : : : ONE price : : : ONE quality.

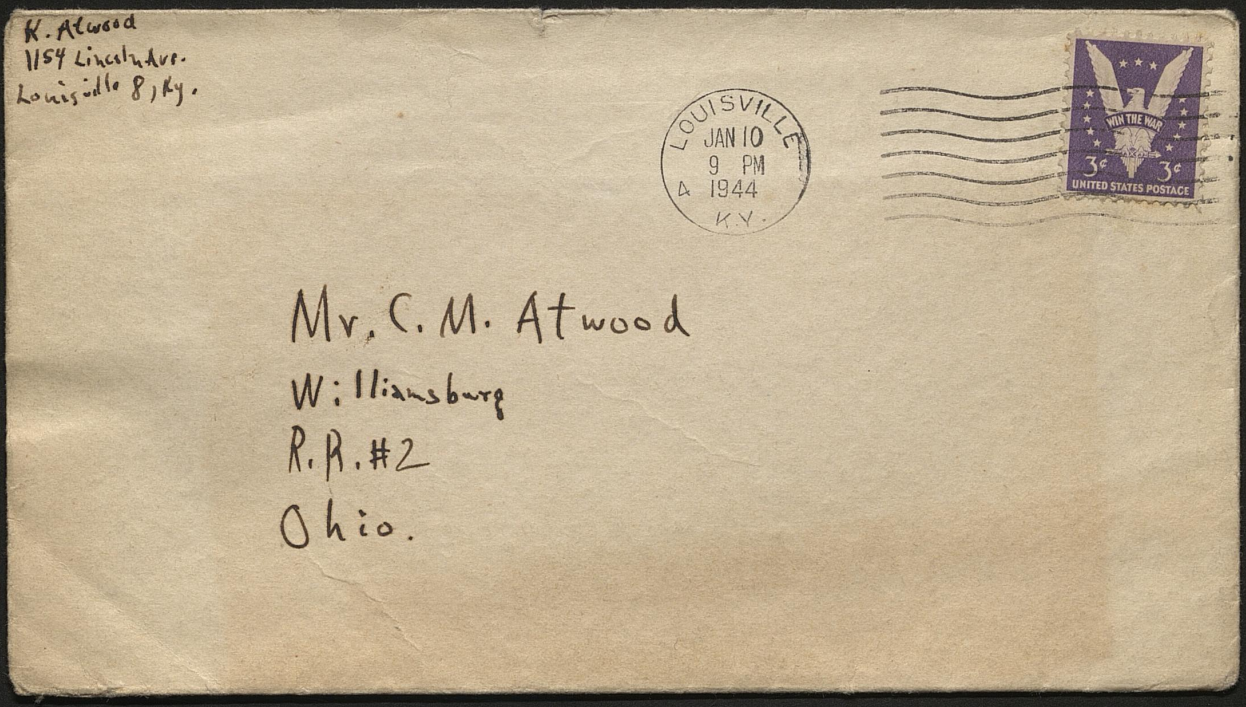
ZENITH DOES NO AUDIOMETER TESTING

There are cases in which deficie hearing is caused by a progressi disease and any hearing aid m do harm by giving a false sense of security. Therefore, we recom mend that you consult your otol gist or ear doctor to make su that your hearing deficiency is t type that can be benefited by t use of a hearing aid.

★

TO PHYSICIANS

A detailed scientific descriptio will be sent upon request. Furth technical details will appear medical journals.


K. Atwood
1154 Lincoln Ave.
Louisville 8, Ky.
LOUISVILLE
JAN 10
9 PM
1944
A
KY.
WIN THE WAR
3¢
3¢
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
Mr. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg
R.R. #2
Ohio.

UNITED STATES ARMY

Jan. 10, '43

Dear Mother and Dad:

Bill and I arrived safely last night, well before the 11:00 deadline. This morning, we were not required to arise quite so early; only at 4:45 this time.

Since we had not as yet ~~had~~ the pleasure of working at K.P. duty, some work of not too unpleasant nature was assigned to us this morning as a substitute. I accompanied a detail of six other fellows to the Q.-master's Corp's warehouse. There we have been working at various odd jobs; among these being the packing of sheets and pillow

cases into boxes, and subsequently moving these boxes.

Many here suspect that those of us who arrived last Mon. will soon be shipped. I will write when it is announced definitely. Some predict tomorrow morning as the date of embarkation.

My hopes are naturally for Grandfather's quick and if it is true, as you say, that hope for recovery is gone. It will not be necessary to go to any great lengths to notify me in case of his death, such as a telegram.

Right now, big time gambling in the form of craps games is being carried on loudly several bunks away. Despite the fact that gambling is prohibited by order of Co. Commander, it is still popular.

Your son, Thomas



UNITED STATES ARMY

Pvt. Thomas Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D" R/C
Fort Thomas, Ky.
U.S. Army





Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Tues - Jan. 18, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Perhaps you may wonder why I have held off so long before writing. There is really no excuse except that I wanted to have definite news of the date of departure before sending you another letter. At last I have definite news; we all leave today. We have not been notified where we are to go, but some suspect Ft. Benning, Ga. It is fairly definite we shall ship south, instead of some colder region.

Over the week end, some of the boys (including Bill) and I went into Cincinnati. We all saw the shows of our choice, and later chipped in to purchase a room for the night at Hotel Gibson. I contacted Lida Sunday morning by telephone, and she invited me to dinner. I accepted, and we all spent a happy evening eating and talking together. Merrill, Louis, Guil, Dick and Linda were also present. The the last three did their best to entertain us, and were quite active all evening.

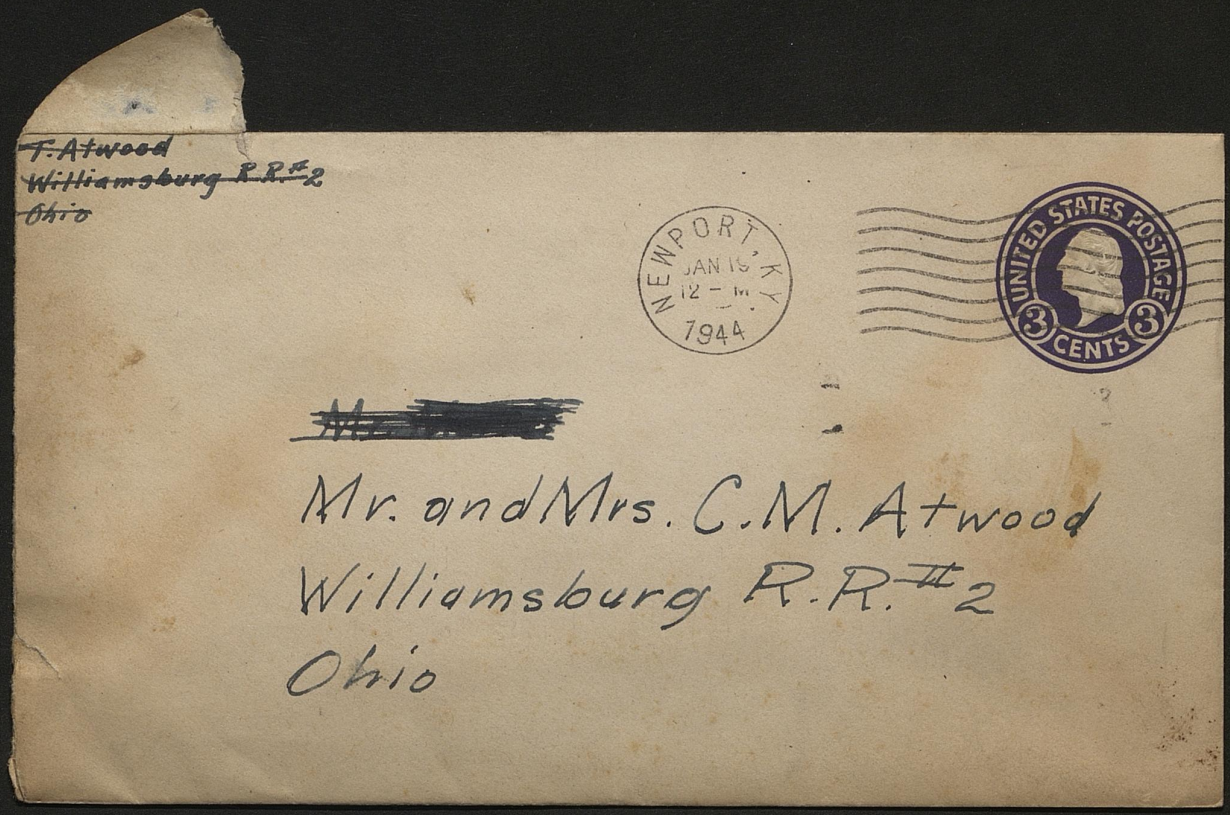
Perhaps as a result of this spree, I contacted a violent little germ which has given me an upset stomach and slight fever. I went to the sick call yesterday morning and was given a 4 oz. dose of salts which has not failed to send me to the can periodically since yesterday afternoon. I am feeling somewhat better now, although slightly on the weak side.

The trip to the new camp should not take more than 24 hours, so that you should not have to wait long for another letter and my new address.

I was very sorry not to have been able to attend Grandfather's funeral. However, your letter informing me of the time and place of the funeral did not arrive until late Wednesday evening, well after the services were over. I trust everything went well. Also, I hope the expenses incurred will not be too much of a hardship.

Your son,
Thomas

P.S. It's quite apparent that my envelope supply is getting exhausted. I must replenish it immediately.


T. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio
NEWPORT, KY
JAN 15
12 - M.
1944
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3
[redacted]
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Jan. 19, 44

Dear Mother and Dad.

We arrived as scheduled here at Ft. Benning after an all night journey by troop train. If one concentrates, it is possible to get considerable rest in one of the sleepers. I found the cots quite comfortable, since there was enough bed clothing, and they were engraving of ample length.

The Georgia climate is quite a pleasant change compared to frigid Kentucky. The weather has been very spring like with the warm winds blowing softly, etc.

Everything they say about Georgia appears to be quite true. Even the clay is really red. Scarlet in fact.

The first glimpse of the average southerner's environment have left quite an impression, simply by observing from the train windows. It is quite easy to see where these playwrites of the "Tobacco Road" variety get their material.

Fort Benning seems to be an immense place. It should not be too hard to contact Bob Davidson however, since his address does not differ too greatly from mine.

The next two weeks here will be spent taking various tests to determine the extent of our knowledge, and also a general processing consisting of issuance of more G.I. material.

The basic training is strictly infantry. I will write more when things become more settled.

Yours as ever
Thomas

UNITED STATES ARMY

Jan. 20, '44.

Dear Mother and Dad:

Perhaps you will be getting two letters from me in one day, which will doubtless seem very much out of the ordinary. It all came about from a mistake I had made about my return address. The mail sergeant's sharp eyes did not let it escape him.

We all have had several tests today. They were of the intelligence variety; also personal data cards to fill out were passed out. ← It is very definite now that we are headed directly to some school or other after completion of our 13 wks. basic. We were also told basic should be over April 22.

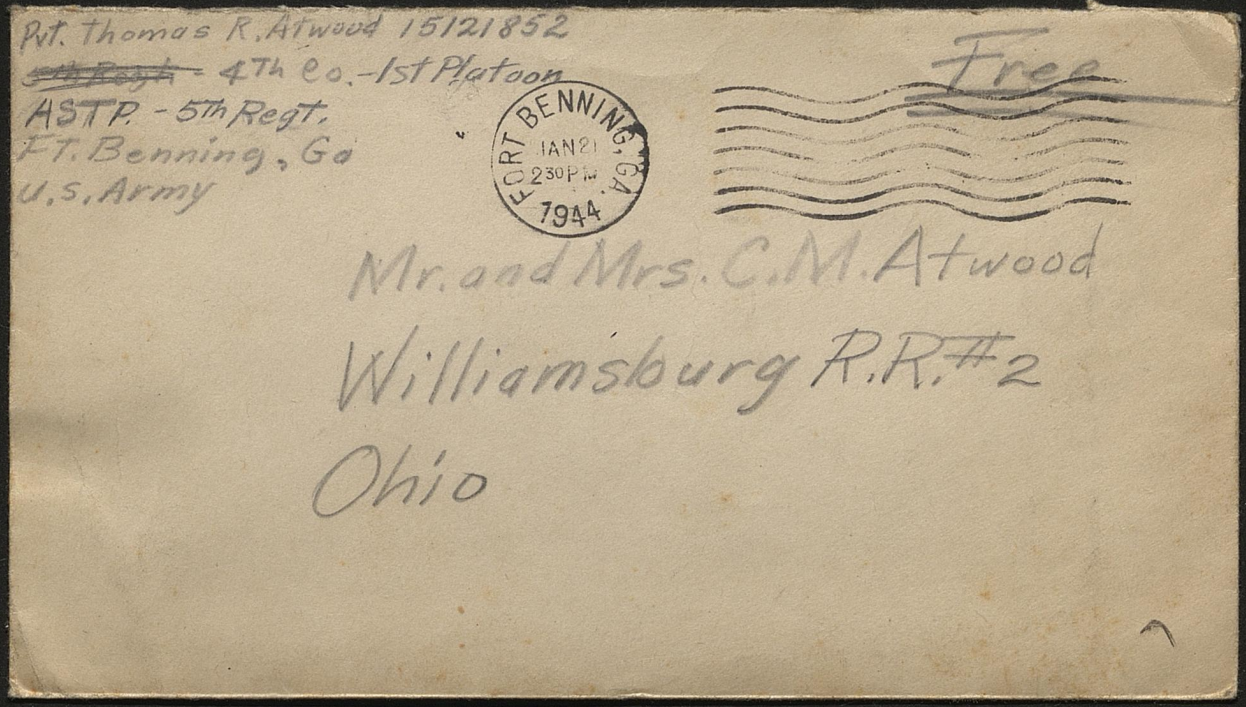
Tomorrow we are to be

interviewed by an Officer for a final check on our qualifications.

The Georgia weather still holds as far as being balmy and spring-like, only at nights does it get cold; down about 45° or 50°. This morning, our barracks was emptied by the Sarg, and we all marched off for ground-policing duty. This is a very easy job, consisting only of walking leisurely along and picking up all foreign matter in sight. While doing this little chore, my hands became quite cold, due to my lack of foresight to bring along gloves.

Tomorrow we are to be aroused early to accomplish an early morning waiter duty job. This will keep us busy before and after our interview.

Yours ever
Thomas


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood 15121852
~~11th Regt~~ - 4th Co. - 1st Platoon
ASTP - 5th Regt.
Ft. Benning, Ga
U.S. Army

FORT BENNING, GA.
JAN 21
2:30 PM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

[1944]

UNITED STATES ARMY

Jan. 25

Dear Mother and Dad:

Please forgive me for not writing sooner. Things have been happening so rapidly here during the last week that I have had very little time to myself. The daylight hours are allready carefully scheduled out ahead of time by the officers, who post the days activities for the week upon the bulletin boards, after our evening meal, from 7:30 to 11:00, we may have some time of our own, usually about 2 hours. I have been taking advantage of some of this time during the last few days by writing numerous cards to the relatives, and also to Mack Reeves and Bob Davies, as yet there has been no reply.

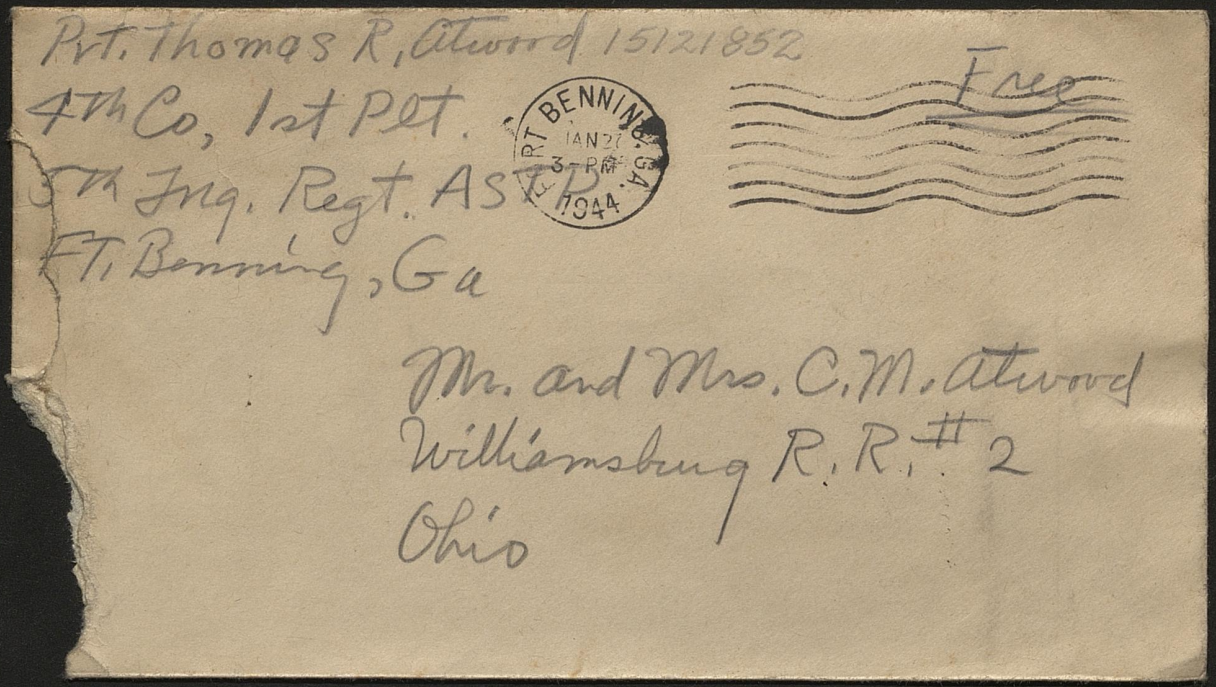
As I said, the last week was very busy. I spent a large time

y it taking all the tests that the Army has to offer in the Math, Chem., and Physics lines. I apparently came out fairly well, for I am assured I going to school in term 4-A. This eliminates the basic engineering phase of the ASTP for me, which is a 9 months period.

I must close now,

Your son,

Thomas


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood 15121852
4th Co, 1st Plt.
5th Trng. Regt. ASTP
Ft. Benning, Ga

Free

FORT BENNING, GA.
JAN 27
3-PM
1944

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. # 2
Ohio

Jan. 28, 44.

Dear Mother and Dad:

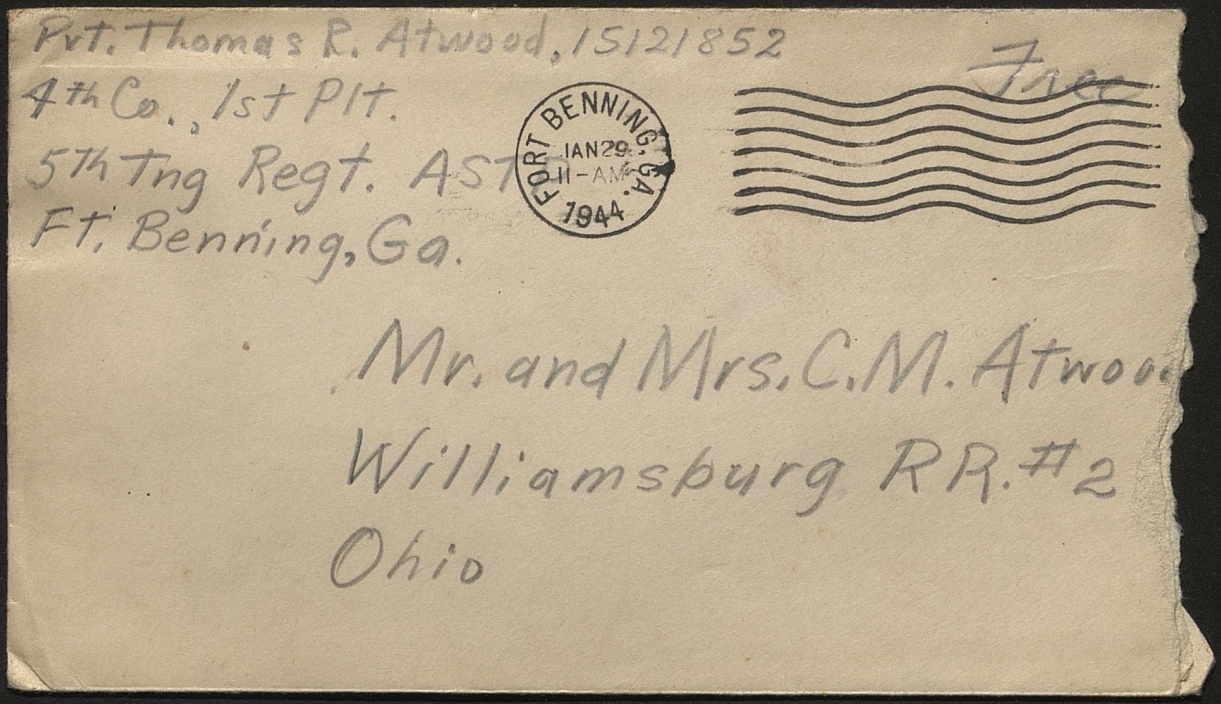
I have received three letters from you so far, two yesterday and one this noon. The pictures have, as you say, turned out rather badly. However, I suppose something is better than nothing. Perhaps in a few weeks I shall be able to get into Columbus, Ga. over a weekend, and have a picture taken. This should turn out to be more satisfactory.

Those packages you mentioned should really hit the spot, since the PX (post exchange) here is really nothing worth mentioning. They cannot compare to the ones in Kentucky, as far as a large variety stock is concerned. I suspect the packages will arrive tomorrow, since letters take approximately two days. When they arrive, I will let you know about their condition. I rather hope their arrival is not too

noticeable, since the other boys in the barracks are great lovers of good homecooking also. Bill's by the way is not in my hut, since we are arranged alphabetically. If possible I shall salvage something for him. So far, I cannot think of very much that I could desire (outside of food) except a fountain pen. Perhaps you could find some quarter variety at Harley M.'s or from our own archives.

The training is progressing rapidly. We have very few complete days previously scheduled. Tonight has been occupied cleaning our hut for the inspection tomorrow. Sat. inspection here is considered a very important thing, so everything must be shining.

We have been issued rifles, bayonets, packs, gas masks, rifle belt, field jacket, and other equipment. The last week has been occupied in learning their proper use and position on the body. Thomas


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
4th Co., 1st Plt.
5th Trng Regt. AST
Ft. Benning, Ga.

FORT BENNING, GA.
JAN 29
11 - AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg RR. #2
Ohio

Jan. 30, 44.

Dear Mother and Dad:

It is Sunday morning here. We always look forward to this day, since it means that at last we shall have time of our own. I shall probably spend much of my time catching up with my back correspondence.

Church facilities here are not the best, but it is really the spirit that counts, so that we do not mind. All the Protestants gather together in the recreation hall, one of our rambling wooden structures. Services are led by the army chaplain, who is a captain. I understand that he also conducts the Catholic and Jewish ceremonies; therefore he must be an all-round man.

Church call will sound in about half an hour, so I shall just about have time to complete this letter before going.

Your two packages arrived yesterday. The one package containing cheese, crackers, and raisins was in very good shape, except that the crackers were in powder form after

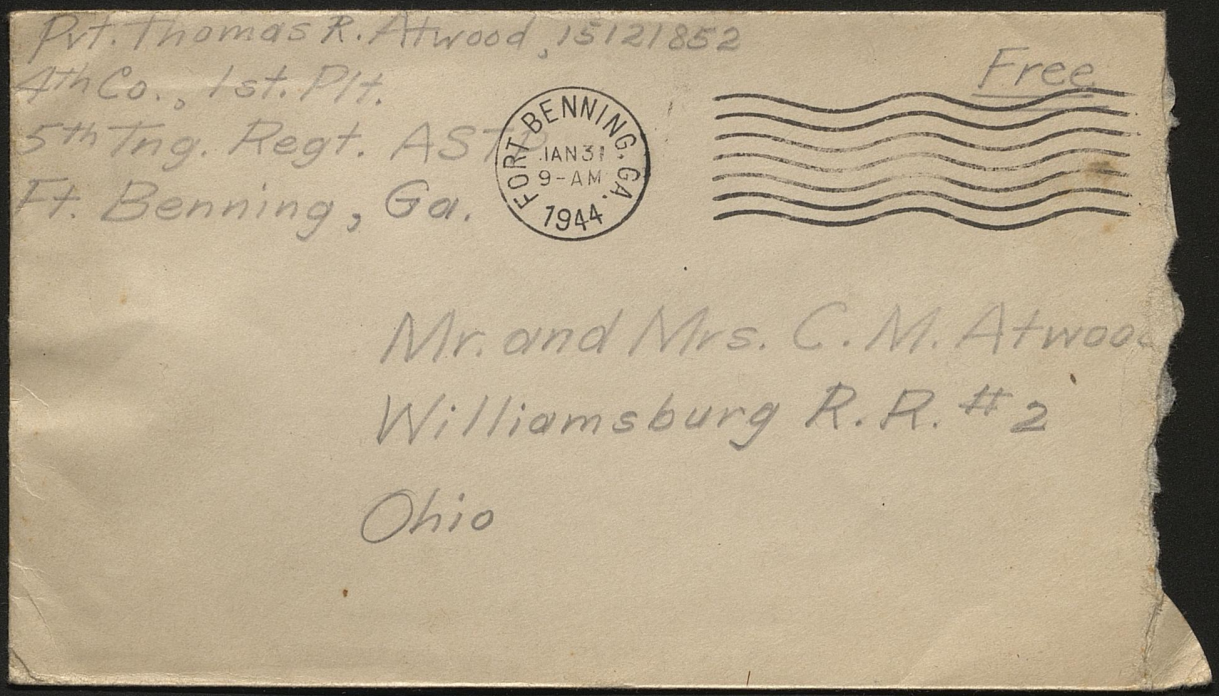
taking their pounding. The other was still in recognizable form, after opening. Bill and I have not finished it off, since we want to find an opportune time this afternoon, when there will not be too many about to help in the subdivision.

The "Trng." stands for training, as you decided. The army is a great lover of abbreviations, and delights in fooling the ordinary citizen with just such things as these.

The food and living conditions are still adequate in view of the warm weather and our not too exhausting days. This next week there is promise of increased activity. We have a 4 hour march scheduled, which will not be too bad, if the lieutenant decides not to double time us half the way. The double time order gets everyone going at a slow run, so that with rifle and full field equipment, we find that a little of this goes a long way toward exhaustion.

We have been promised the opportunity of buying some company stationery.

Your son
Thomas



Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
4th Co., 1st. Plt.
5th Tng. Regt. AST
Ft. Benning, Ga.

FORT BENNING, GA.
JAN 31
9-AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

Mon., Jan. 31, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

As you can plainly see, I'm breaking in some new company stationery. The price is rather exorbitant, seventy-five cents to one package containing 30 envelopes and about 100 sheets of paper. Although it looks very nice, I believe that when this supply is consumed, we will change back to a cheaper variety. There is an abundant supply of this kind here at the PX.

The apple pie which you sent certainly has hit the spot. As I write this, some of the flavor is still lingering in my mouth. It was Christian-like in sharing some of my raisins and crackers with the boys in my hut, but the pies reserved

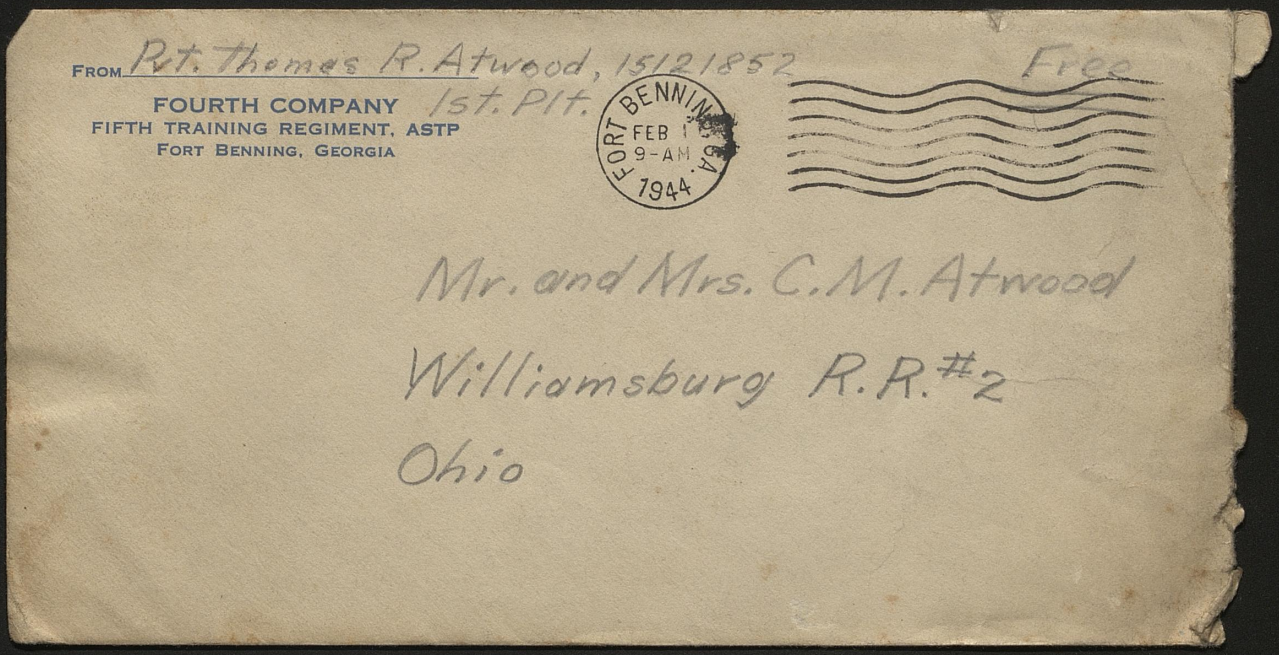
for private use. That sort of thing works both ways, however, since the custom has developed that packages from home get pilfered by the rest of the boys.

The price for the clock repair is rather shocking. I doubt if you could have found a better choice in the entire state when you consider the fee and workmanship. How accurately does it operate, and does it get on your nerves? Oh, I had almost forgotten that the Thermos could be discontinued at will. No doubt you take advantage of this feature during the nighttime.

I received a letter from Harry W. in reponse to a card I sent him last week. I certainly appreciate your daily letters, but please to not run up too great a stamp bill.

Surely Bim has developed a desire to drink by now. Evidently he is determined to test the mind over matter theory. The place would not be the same without him.

Training here is progressing rapidly. Thomas



From Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
FOURTH COMPANY 1st. Plt.
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

FORT BENNING GA.
FEB 9-AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

Sat. Feb. 5

Dear Mother and Dad:

Your letters are arriving quite regularly and in good time. I received your letter of the 2nd and the package containing pen and candy bars yesterday. Both are being put to good use. Even I will agree that a pen written letter is much more attractive, although one pays the penalty when mistakes are made, I am sure the pen will get a good workout in the future as it has come.

I had a rather brief letter from Harry W. a few days ago, and also a letter from Senora Carr. As yet I have not answered these, so I suspect that much of my prospective spare time will be spent engaged in

letter writing.

At the present time all of us are resting up from the ordeal of Sat. inspection. The inspection today consisted of the same things as last Sat.; our rifles and hats were made spotless. The Lieutenant had us all fall out in the company street where he made a minute inspection of our rifles. There in the brilliant sunlight all those small particles of rust or dust that we had not seen when we cleaned our rifles by electric light were thrown sharply in relief. Luckily ~~my~~ mine was clean enough to get by, so that there will be no extra work for me to do next week from that cause.

However, after the rifle inspection our four companies, forming the fifth regiment, all marched to the hills field for a parade. The Colonel was on hand to review us, and strange

FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

to say, our company was judged to have marched the best. This of course made our company commander First Sgt. Schmitt quite happy, since the three companies with which we were competing were already in their 6th week of training, while we are just ending our 2nd week. (I will have to lip again.)

It is pleasant to hear that the clock is in good running order and that Jim is feeling more like his old self.

As to socks, I would appreciate them very much. However, if you have on hand any white work socks, they would come in more handy than my brown, short socks. You see, we wear the white socks six days a week, mainly because a rather thick sock gives more protection on the march. We have available to us the opportunity

& getting new socks from the supply room as soon as the old ones become holey. at the present time. I have only three pair & white socks, so that it is difficult to take advantage & the laundry service when it takes from Mon. to Fri. for it to return. The same goes for under-clothes esp. shorts. & and when I get into Columbus I shall probably be able to make purchases, since the PX here do not have these articles. If any are available at home, lying about, I probably could use them, since it is legal to wear civilian underclothes.

Speaking of pictures, today the whole company (& 240 of us) was photographed in a group picture. Do not lose patience concerning an individual shots of myself. This will have to wait though, until I am eligible to ask for a pass into Columbus. This will come about when I get all my typhoid, small pox, and tetanus shots. The tetanus shots alone take a long time

FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

for the series. They are three in number, and are spaced every three weeks. This covers two months at least, so that it may be March before you get the picture!

Today many of the other boys have been getting packages ~~today~~. A Mr. Alexander is our hut got the prize package. This contained cheese, crackers, jam, cake, candy and numerous meats, all in large quantities. He is not adverse to sharing, either.

My finances are getting rather low. In fact down to the last dollar. This is not serious, however, for we are to receive our a month's pay in a few days, minus our Bond deductions and other subtractions.

I am finishing up this side of the page this Sunday morning. Due to a rather unusual development, a Sunday rifle inspection, I did not have the opportunity of attending church. It is taking place right now, and as you can see is quite informal, since a Corporal instead of the usual officer is making the rounds. Right now he is examining my rifle. There seems to have been two wrong points worthy of catching his attention.

Fortunately I was able to join the 1st Bat. men's choir, which is being organized under supervision and influence of the chaplain. Our leader is a Corporal Villers, a trained singer and director. He is quite young and affable, one of the boys. After several weeks of practice we hope to gain sufficient repertoire (however you spell it) to appear at the request of a few Columbus social organizations, churches in the main.

Thomas

FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

Feb. 8, '44.

Dear Mother and Dad:

The package containing the snack, fountain pen and stationery arrived safely yesterday. Naturally the candy bars and peppermint did not last long. I am writing this letter with the new pen. You can see that it is yet to be broken in well. Perhaps later on it will act according to Hoyle.

The ~~this~~ package of stationery will come in very handy later on, but until then, I shall be using this variety. On second thought, I may decide to conserve it for more important correspondence.

If you want suggestions as what to send in future, some of those home cooked cookies would be very welcome. If you decide to send any cookies, it is best ~~to~~ have several layers, so

that when one offers the boys a cookie, there is some excuse to stop at the bottom of the first layer. Also if there are about 20 or 30 small cookies to a layer, they tend to last much longer than if there are only a few large cookies. This pen is acting up, as you can easily see. Perhaps I shall have to work upon it more than I expected.

Right now we are busily engaged in bayonet and hand to hand fighting. These details of warfare are the rather gory ones, but I suspect they will come in very handy in the case we have to meet the enemy in the near future. We are shown all the various low down tricks of hand to hand combat. The arm breaking tactics and other well known tactics are explained to us. Then we and our partners practice on each other, not too energetically, of course.

Our days are becoming more and more fully occupied. Tomorrow we go out on a little night problem. This will allow us to get up later Thurs. morning when we none It will be warmer than the earlier hours.

Thomas

FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

Fri. Feb. 11, 44.

Dear Mother and Dad:

This letter has degenerated from a Friday start into a Saturday finish. All I got completed yesterday was the date and salutation before I was rudely interrupted by the sergeant's whistle.

Today has been very busy for all of us. We started the morning, early as usual, but not very bright. It never is light here at 7:00 when we arise for breakfast. That is mainly because the time here is two hours ahead of sun time. By the way, our food is really quite good, though at times the quantity is rather on the short side. For breakfast we had scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, milk, coffee, bread and butter and half an apple. The milk and eggs

especially were available in limited quantities as they always are. However, the other two meals make up for a light breakfast. Just as a passing remark, I have not developed the coffee habit yet. This results in many a dry meal for me.

By 8:30 we had all been marched over to the drill field, and at once began practicing our hand to hand combat. This consists, I believe I have told you, of all the various dirty tactics yet devised for injuring your opponent. Some of the tricks are very worthwhile and should come in handy on and off the field of battle. We choose our partners and practice the various holds, being careful not to be too zealous. All of these holds can easily be blocked if the opponent knows exactly what ~~will~~ is coming, but if sped and surprise

FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

are exercised they should be very effective. We are taught the flying mare, methods of knocking our opponent over backward, various arm twisting holds and neck twisting holds.

After ~~this~~ an hour of this we had our close order drill as a little practice session in preparation for the regular Sat. parade. Next on the list of morning activities came our introduction to the obstacle course. This course consists of various little hurdles and jumps which are generally run with rifle and equipment as a preparation for battlefield conditions. Today, we were introduced to them without equipment. The first is a little two foot jump which we trot over. Then we have triangular chicken coop obstacles which has a twelve foot jut on the other side. The last

Naturally all the jumping obstacles have well ~~mats~~ padded places to drop upon. There is also a 8 foot wall with suspended sides which we must scale by our own devices. The usual method is to jump high, grasping the top with the hands and pulling one leg ~~to the top~~ over. There are other interesting obstacles, which should offer little trouble.

Following the obstacle course we ate and then rapidly dressed for the parade. As yet there have been no reports as to how well we marched, but our hopes are not too high. The parade was not too much a success due to the fact that freezing weather has struck overnight, and unfortunately has continued throughout the day. We were rather cold standing at attention with only our shirts and no blouse.

Following the parade we fell out in the co. street for rifle inspection, which I fortunately passed.



FOURTH COMPANY
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

Following inspection we had a fire drill, and after that came my second tetanus shot and my third typhoid. All in all we were rather busy today.

As yet your package containing clothing has not arrived. Perhaps it will be in tonight's mail call, unless the package you refered to in your letter of Feb. 9 is the same one I refer to.

Yesterday we got paid. It certainly was a happy day. I received approx. $15.00 with two $25.00 bonds deducted from the original sum. There is a stupendous bond drive on here, and perhaps I shall be induced to buy an extra bond over my bond a month quota if I do not spend the extra cash elsewhere.

I had not drawn on my checking account, since it is almost impossible

~~to check~~ cash one unless you or your brother is an officer.

I hope you can read this writing, but it seems ~~that~~ I have begun to adopt an illegible scrawl. If you cannot read everything or get the meaning, don't fail to notify me at once.

It is unfortunate that Rose E. is having so much trouble. I suspect if she pulls thru this should be her last offspring.

I'm glad to hear you have had an increase in milk production. Sandy certainly sounds as if she would be a good producer. It just goes to prove that the pure-breds are the animals to have if you want uniform quality.

As yet I have not written to ~~the~~ Mr. Afspring. I shall have to correct that tomorrow. I also ~~to~~ have been getting pretty heavy ~~mail~~ mail lately. Valentines from the Carr family, Fra + Selma, and letters from Eva. S, Clara D, O.W. Astrity, and others. By the way, Oliver Wendell is about to go to the Navy. I'm rather sorry to see him leave O.S.V. Tom

Sun. Feb. 13, '44

Dear Mother and Dad,

As you see, I have decided to conserve the letter stationery and am begining to send back your paper a sheet at a time.

The weather here has changed abruptly. The cold wave must be rather widespread, since it has been freezing down here also. There is no sleet connected with it, and for that we are thankful.

Tonight I shall try to catch up on my correspondence. I have about ten or fifteen letters I should write, but will only get four or five written. This morning was occupied eating a hearty breakfast, choir practice, and participation in the church program where we sang "Built on the Rock." I will enclose the program, perhaps you may be interested. After church I took a shower and tried to wash my field jacket, which must be clean for our guard duty shift next week.

This afternoon several of the boys and

I went to the show. "The Imposter", with the French boy, Jean Dabin, was playing, and was rather good entertainment. So you see, although we may not work on a fixed schedule on Sunday, the day is usually well filled and quite busy.

Tomorrow is a rugged day. We have two hours of bayonet practice, one hour of hand grenade throwing, and one hour of exercises in the morning. In the afternoon we have a four hour march with full field packs. These marches are not too exhausting. There is a rest period of 15 min. the first hour of the march and a ten min. rest period for every ~~this~~ additional ~~march~~ hour.

Now as to the chiming watch; naturally little items like that interest me, but I certainly will not be able to use it for some time. Therefore it is up to Papa and Lida to decide. If we acquire the chiming watch, there certainly be a man-sized collection of watches around the house. By the way, is it possible or worthwhile for that wrist watch of mine to be repaired? As I have a pocket

~~Wed~~

watch with me that means it is sufficient that I leave it in my locker, where it is quite safe. I desire to know the time most often while in the hut, so I do not miss the wrist watch. Therefore, if it cannot be repaired or costs approx. the original cost to be fixed, please do not bother. To get back to the chiming ~~watch~~, $50.00 sounds a bit high, but really you cannot blame Lida. I believe there is approximately $35.00 in my checking account. It may as well be put to a use, so if you feel so inclined, use the cash there as a partial payment on the watch. I enclose the blank check.

I received your ~~last~~ letter of the 11th today, also one from Kenton. I was very glad to hear that Ruth has the job at the lab she was working for. Production appears to be getting in better swing also.

This should be plenty for now; I have more letters to write.

Your son

Thomas

P.S. Do not mind the apparent contradiction concerning the watch, I changed my mind while writing the letter.

(over)

Please do not hesitate to use the money in the bank, since I can hardly get at it while in the army. I also calculate that my army pay will be quite sufficient to cover all ~~expenses~~ unusual expenses I may have. If you do not use the money on the watch buy a couple of war bonds; or perhaps any other way; since it really is Papa's anyway.

FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT

REGIMENTAL WORSHIP SERVICE

REGIMENTAL RECREATION HALL

JOHN BAERGEN CHAPLAIM

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

ALWAYS STRIVE TOWARD PERFECTION

ALWAYS SHUN TRUE PERDITION

Sunday, February 13, 1944

10:00 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER

HYMN No. 86 ..... "Onward, Christian Soldiers" .....

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN No. 124 ..... "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" .....

PRAYER ..... Chaplain Baergen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1ST BN MALE CHORUS. "Built on A Rock" ..... Pvt. Arnold Waxman
---------- Director

SERMON ..... Chaplain Baergen

HYMN No. 63 ..... "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" .....

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

****

ANNOUNCEMENTS

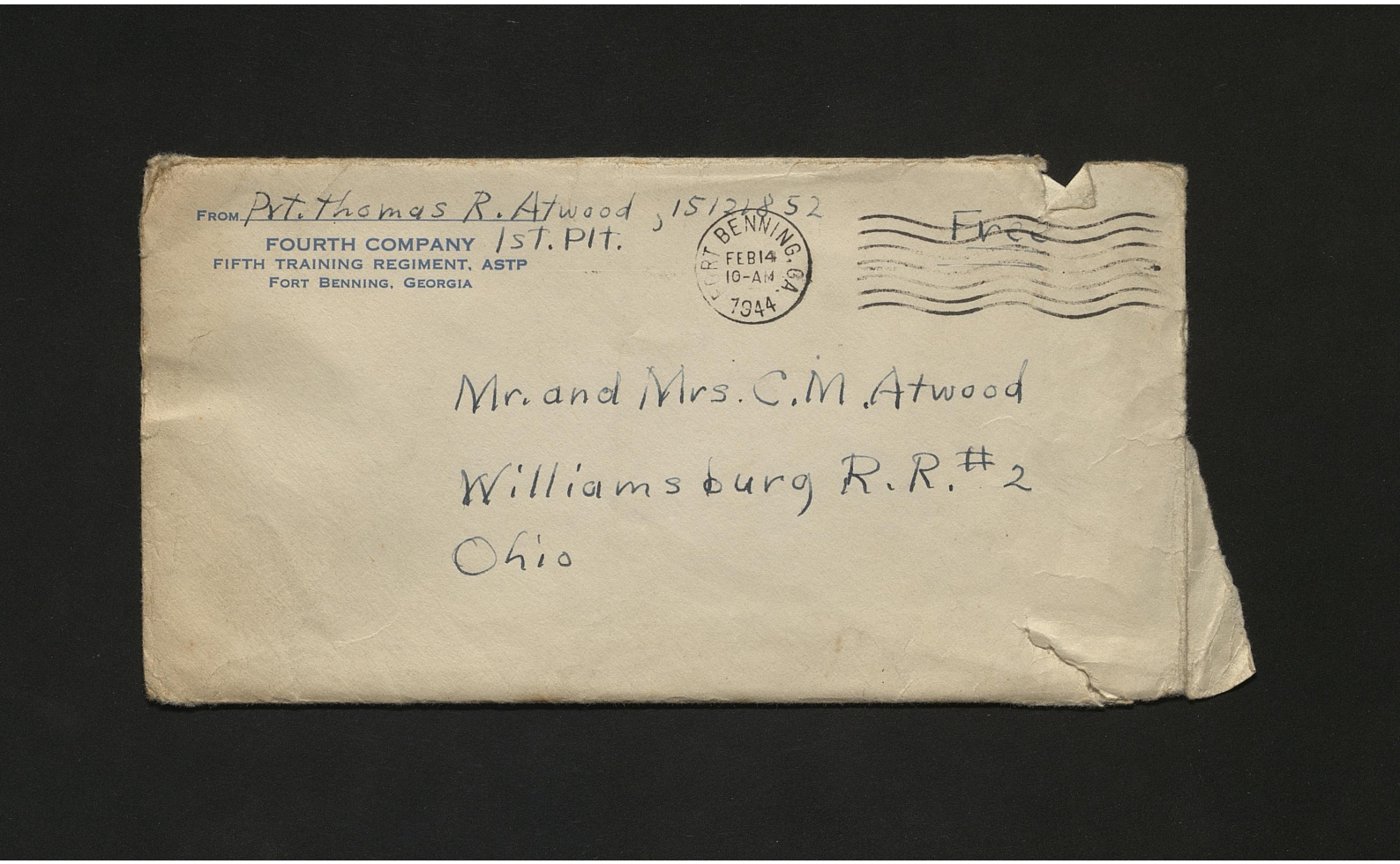
****

CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday from 2000 to 2200. Each day from 1315 to 1400. Other hours by appointment.

****

CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANTS: Cpl. Wayne C. Hockett - Cpl. Leon J. Villard

PIANIST: Pvt. James Hadley



From Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
FOURTH COMPANY 1ST. PLT.
FIFTH TRAINING REGIMENT, ASTP
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

FORT BENNING, GA.
FEB 14
10-AM
1944

Free

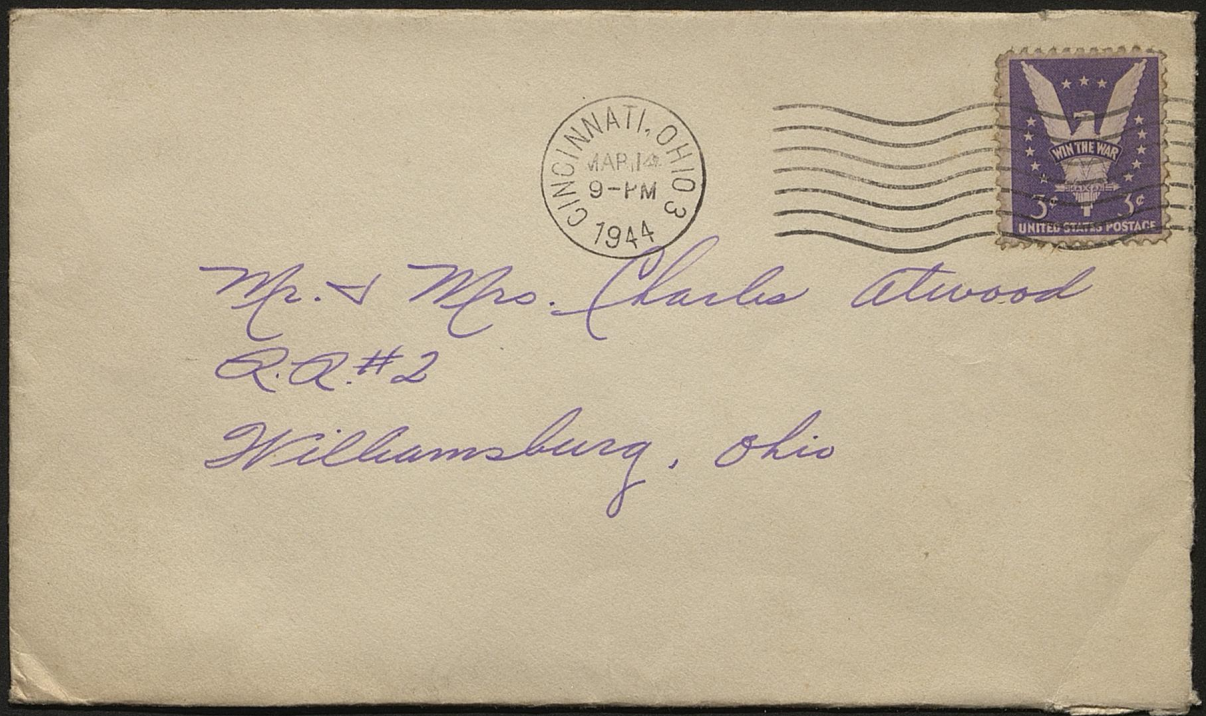
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

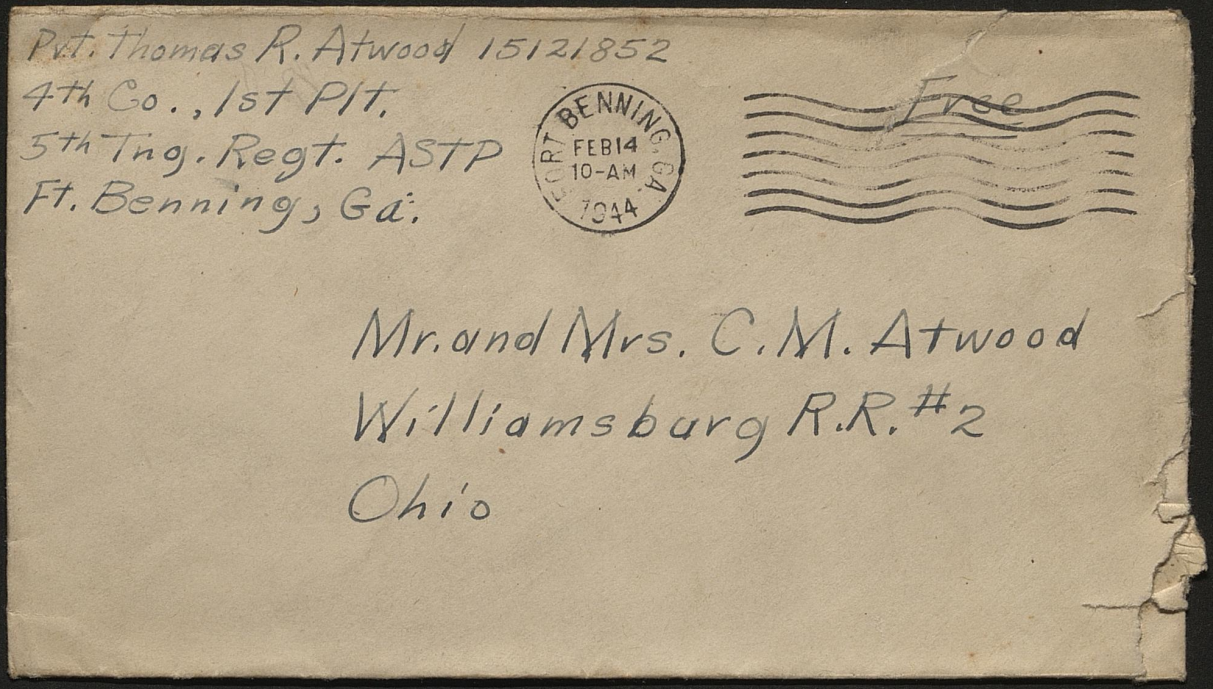
Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
B/1st. Co, 1st. PIT.
6th Tng. Regt. ASTP
Ft. Benning, Ga.

FORT BENNING, GA.
MAR 11
4:30 PM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio


CINCINNATI, OHIO
MAR 14
9-PM
1944
WIN THE WAR
3¢
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Atwood
R.R. #2
Williamsburg, Ohio


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood 15121852
4th Co., 1st Plt.
5th Trng. Regt. ASTP
Ft. Benning, Ga.

FORT BENNING, GA
FEB 14
10-AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Wed. Mar. 15, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Mother's king size letter arrived this evening. The package containing cookies, fruit and toilet kit arrived Mon. Strangely enough it was in good shape - no mashed box this time.

I was glad to hear that Vic. T. is getting along well. He will doubtless have plenty to talk about when he returns. As you know, the Marines usually have the brunt of the fighting to bear whenever new landings are made in the Pacific.

While it is true that my chances for any school by way of the ASTP are going less, there may still be hope. I may find out more about that at the new post.

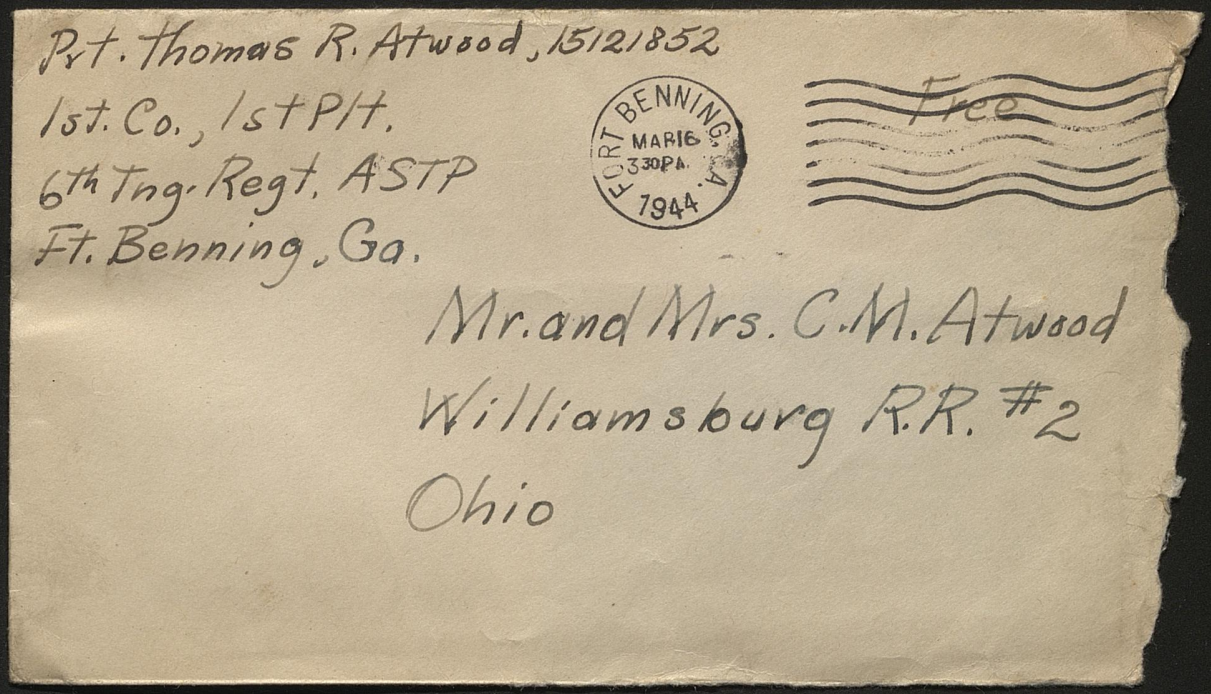
Preparations for leaving are continuing here at a great rate. The whole area is being policed and cleaned up, fire ~~barrels~~ barrels refilled, our dog tags checked, barracks bags stamped with our names, equippment checked, and tonight we signed a statement of charges. All these procedures indicate that it won't be too long before we leave. The latest rumors have it that we shall move next Mon. for Camp Hood, Texas. This is only rumor, and doubtless we shall move at some this time for some other destination.

From Mother's letter I judge that the Glaveys will soon be moved again. Bill H. seems to have plenty on the ball.

Speaking of Joe Evans, I met a fellow down here from Miami U. who was Joe's room mate there. Quite a coincidence. Joe will doubtless become an officer before too long a time. He can make the grade if anyone can.

I would suggest curtailment of mail by this Fri. or Sat. if you want to write, since by the time any letters written after that reach me, (if they do) the news would certainly be very stale. Besides it will anger our mail clerk. Come to think of it, maybe that would be a good idea.

Love


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
1st. Co., 1st P/t.
6th Tng. Regt. ASTP
Ft. Benning, Ga.

FORT BENNING, GA.
MAR 16
330 P.M.
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Sun. Mar. 19, 41

Dear Mother and Dad:

These last few days have certainly been busy ones. At last the many preparations for our transfer are complete, and we have been told we are to leave in the morning. It won't be long before the 1st Co. is incorporated in the 86 Inf. Div. at Camp Livingston, La.

At present the Company is confined to the Co. area by order of the C.O. This has resulted in everyone resorting to the barracks. At present, the C.O.'s Orders are not the only thing confining us, since outside of the frequent Georgia landbursts now rages outside. It is really coming down upon the roof so that the drumming sound!

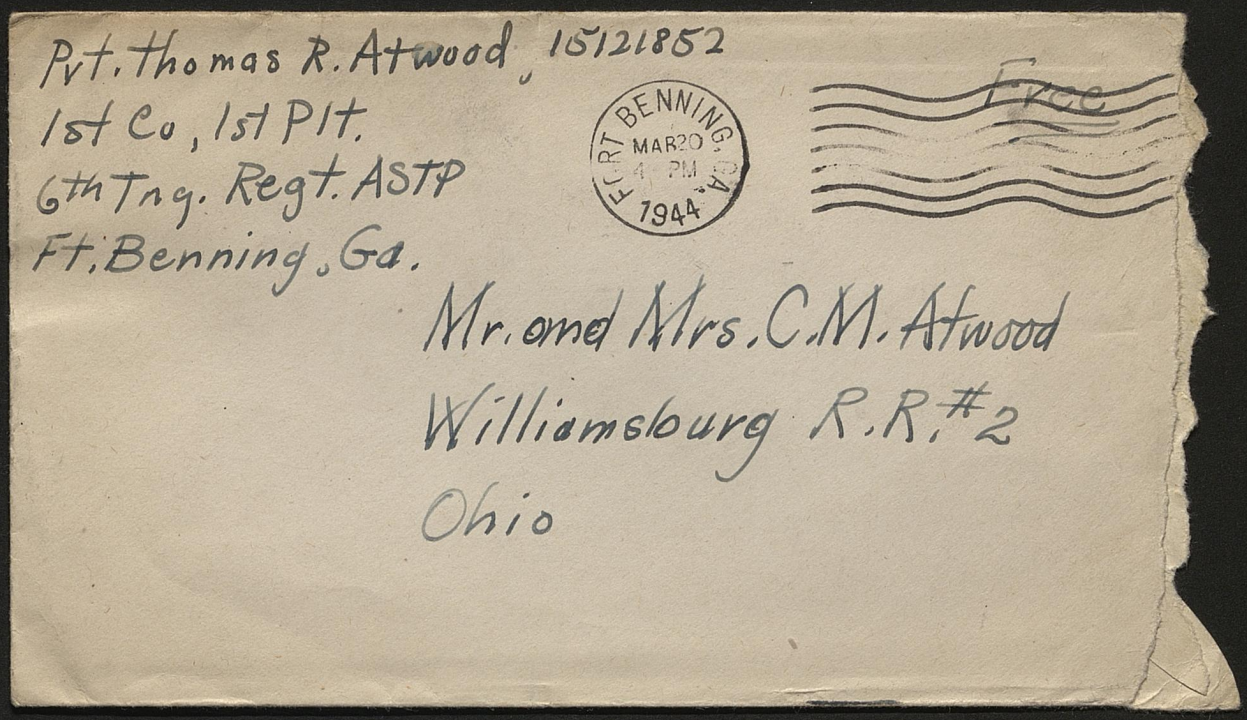
makes conversation difficult. The rushing water is gathering in miniature creeks outside our barracks, ~~and~~ bright red, and muddy ~~[illegible]~~. After the rain, it will surely be very unpleasant underfoot.

Again all my belonging's are packed away in my two barracks bags. It comes altogether to about 100 lbs of junk. At Camp Livingston, the Army will re-issue us our rifles, tents and other equipment which we do not carry with us from camp to camp.

I certainly hope you continue on your speedy recovery, Mother. The cold sounds rather serious if you were confined to bed.

So the antique collectors are at it again? It rather grieves me to see the marble-top carved table go. But as you say, we really had no great need for it.

Your son
Thomas



Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
1st Co, 1st Plt.
6th Trg. Regt. ASTP
Ft. Benning, Ga.

FORT BENNING, GA.
MAR 20
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

San. Mar. 26, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The situation remains just about the same here. We are still quarantined, though in reality this quarantine exists only on paper. We all go to the PX at least once daily, which is outside the Co. area definitely. Some day we will get caught and have a nice evening in the kitchen.

Since we are under quarantine until Wed., our activities have not been so vigorous as the rest of the company. For instance, tomorrow the rest of the company has its monthly 25 mi hike. This serves as a conditioner and is intended to keep everyone in shape. We "lepers" as we call ourselves, will not go along. This does not disappoint us too much. The only trouble is that some unlooked for details may arise for us to perform during the absence of our associates.

The package from Aunt Alice unfortunately has not yet arrived. I hate to write her before it does, but I may have to if it does not appear soon.

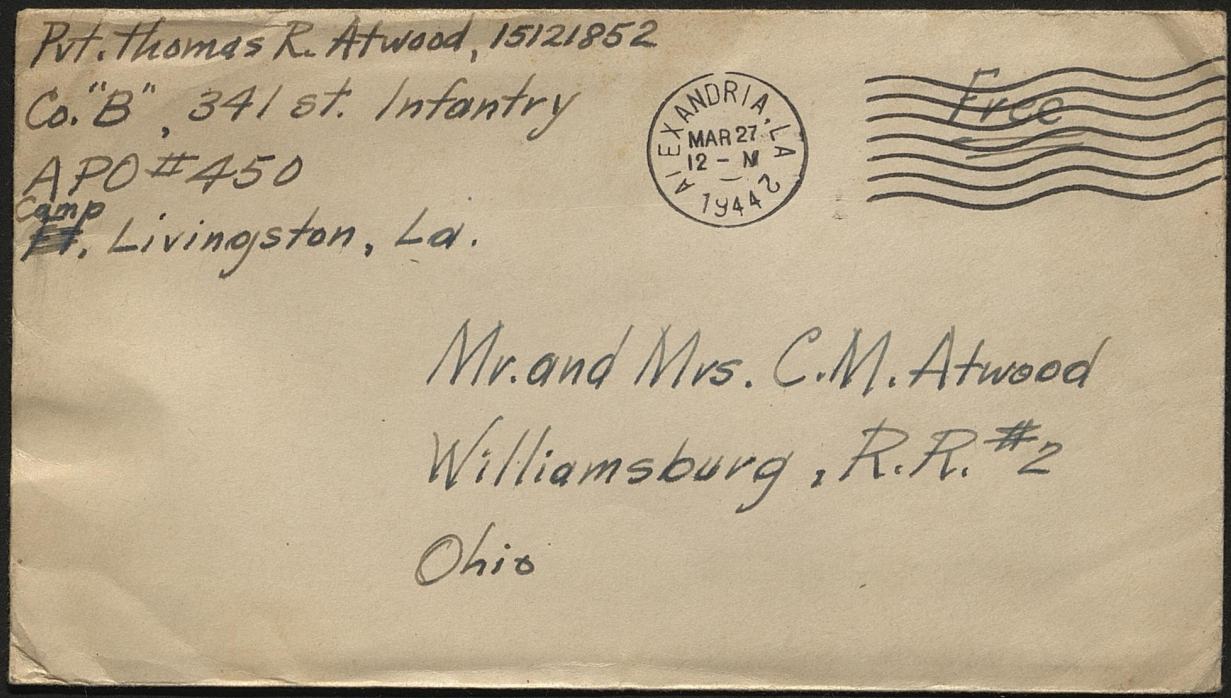
Since we came into a new outfit, the physicals and check-ups have been coming our way in large numbers. I had thought my weight was increasing rapidly because of an expanding waste line, but apparently not, for I weigh now 160, stripped. Also the feet are losing down somewhat. I have a class 2 (or B) flat foot. There is no pain or discomfort whatsoever, so why should I worry? Maybe after a 25 mile hike I will have more cause.

Oh, yes, when you send me Henry Bowman's address, why not include the Steinbicker's? If Betty is such an interesting as you say, perhaps we can strike up an interesting correspondence.

Do not worry too much about Eva S., Mother. I shall dash off a letter to her tonight.

Your son Thomas (over)

P.S. Here I intended this to be a 1 page affair front and back, but the pages stuck without my ~~knowledge~~. I thought it best to explain my socially correct letter writing procedure, so you won't expect it in the future.


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "B", 341st. Infantry
APO #450
Camp
~~Ft.~~ Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
MAR 27
12 - M
1942

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg, R.R. #2
Ohio

Sat. April 1, 44

Dear dad:

Your letter and Mother's arrived yesterday. I also received another today dated the 29th. (Today is really the 31ST, but I dated this letter ahead.)

I received a communication from Kenton, today. Probably he has also written you the same news about the battalions production going smoothly. (Or has he and Ruth been home recently; I seem to remember Mother saying something to that effect.) Now that I look up, I see that it is a prospective visit that they plan. Kenton seems slightly agitated over the possibility of the 1-A men's age limit being extended to 30 years. He makes the statement that everybody at Longpoint's believes him very unhealthy and a sure 4-F. Of course, he and I know better, for the old saying about them not seeing each other, and your in, is very true.

Kenton also has advised me of the more desirable places in New Orleans to visit, as they were in 1942, or whenever it was that he went through. I only hope that I have the money and time to make the trip sometime during my stay here.

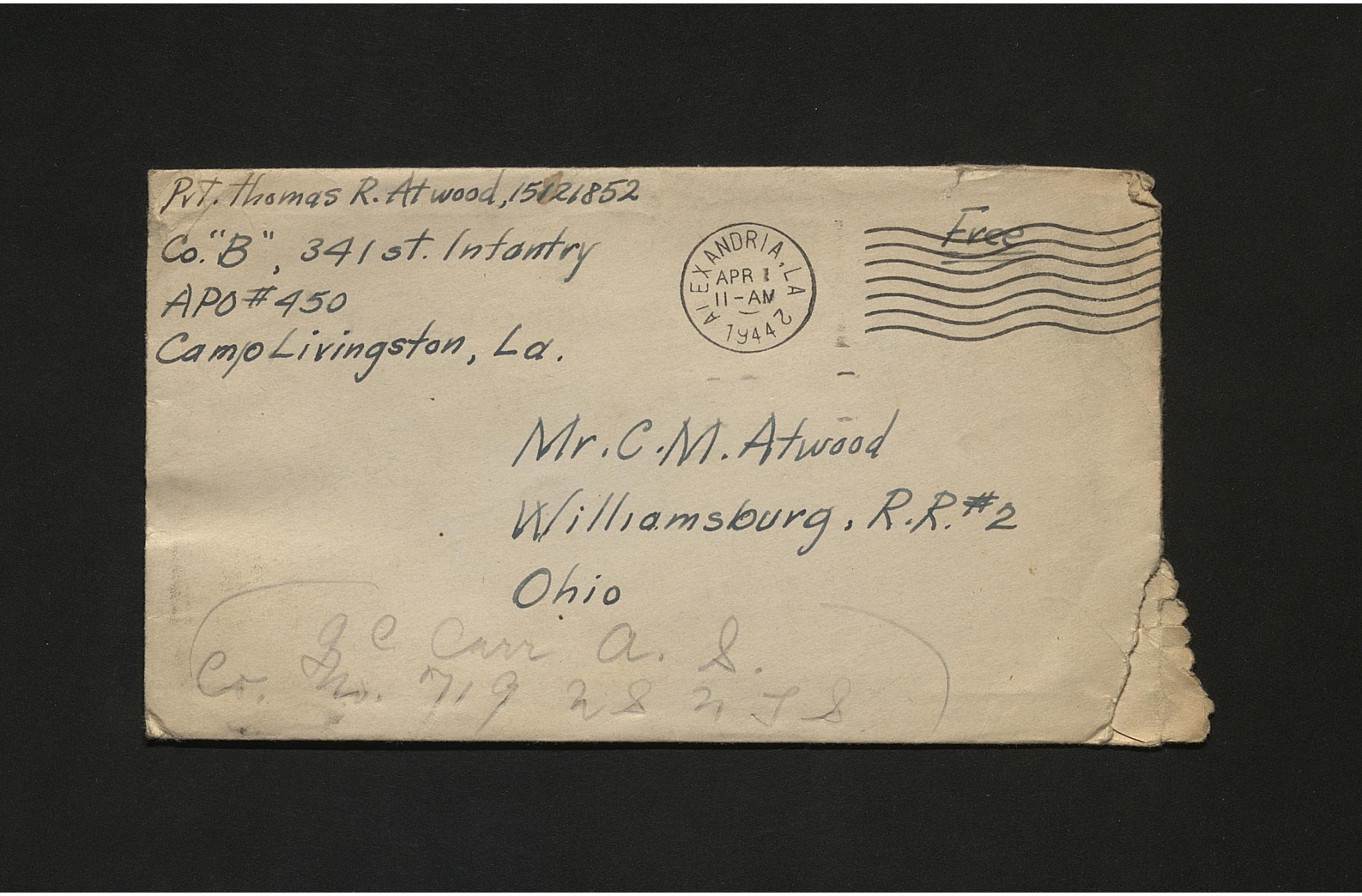
Our training is progressing very rapidly. They have begun at about the same place where they left off at Benning. Next week we are to fire the M-1 on the range for record. I believe the ranges here vary. We shall shoot at 200, 300 and 500 yards in our various positions, the prone, sitting, kneeling and standing positions. The scoring system they use gives a bulls eye 5 pts. the next ring 4 and so on to 2. To qualify with the rifle, one must shoot 160 out of a possible 210 score. I don't know the size of the targets, or what ranges we use for what positions, but we shall find out Monday.

The only other weapon with which we are to receive instruction is the Army's new carbine, the ~~5~~ 5 pound wonder that fires 16, .30 cal bullets. The M-1 weighs 9 lbs. and fires a clip of eight shots. While the carbine ~~has the advantages~~ of being very light and firing many shots before reloading, it is only ~~effective~~ accurate to 300 yds. The M-1 can be used effectively up to 1000 yds. Perhaps you have seen the picture of Churchill, Eisenhower, and some Lieut. Gen or other firing the carbine.

I shall have to write a letter to H. Bowman, tonight. Perhaps I will be able to visit him or vise-versa.

Please tell Mother, that if she can contact, Mrs. Unstadt in Canton, I should like to get Bill's address. I suspect that the old 5th Regt - ASTP transferred to some other camp in the South, since I have been unable to contact any 5th men down here.

Bill Hill sounds very energetic. You of course have put the ultimate goal before him, Emmett Creger. If Bill can do what every other preacher we have had for the last 20 years has failed to do, he should automatically get an $5.00 increase in pay per week. I'm afraid the odds are against Bill, though, no matter how good a man he may be.



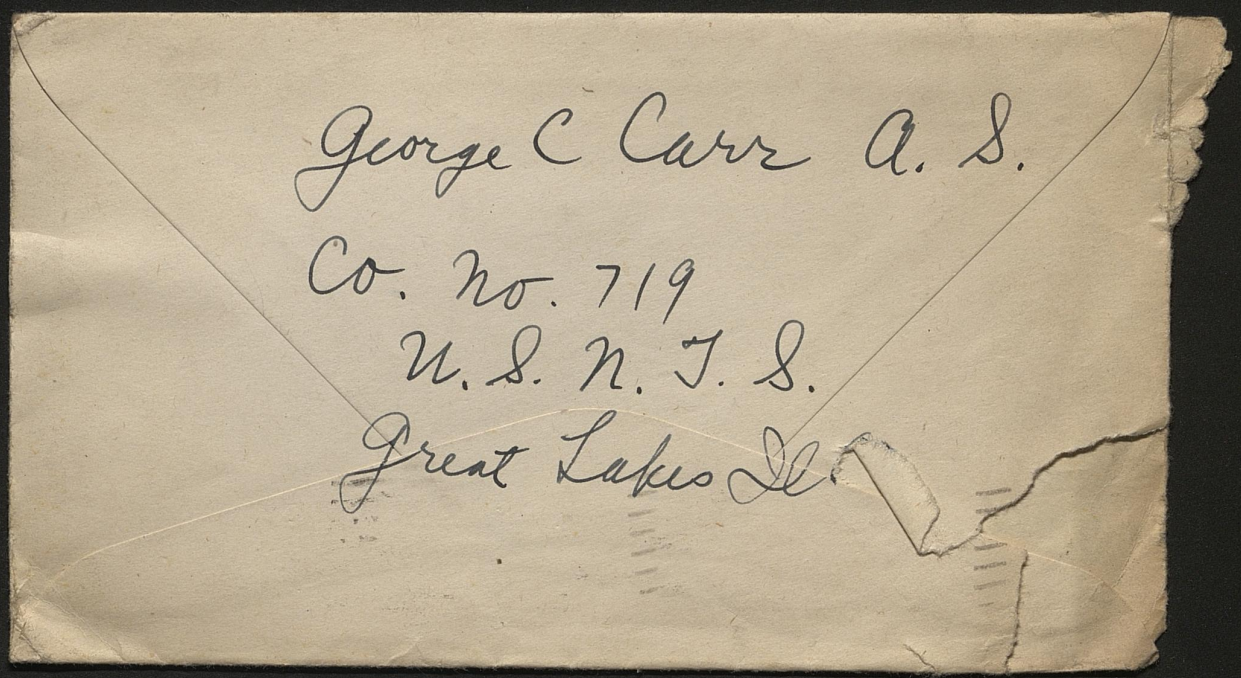
Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "B", 341 st. Infantry
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
APR 1
11-AM
1944

Free

Mr. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg, R.R. #2
Ohio

Q C Carr A. S.
Co. No. 719 2 S 2 T S


George C Carr A. S.
Co. No. 719
U. S. N. T. S.
Great Lakes Ill.

Wed. Apr. 5(?), 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I thought it best to break this lengthy silence with a short letter rather than wait for more spare time.

We have been extremely busy these last few days, firing on the range. It has been fun except for the work attached, and the cool mornings. I say work, since the men in the pits get a good workout running targets up and down and marking them. We change places after firing with the pit detail.

I qualified easily with both M-1 and carbine. My score for the M-1 was 162 out of 210, for the carbine 170 out of a possible 200. Qualifying for M-1 is 140, for the carbine 135. Expert for carbine is 175 and 180 for M-1, Sharpshooter is 165 and 160

respectively. Marksman includes every other score from sharpshooter down to qualifying. It was rather unfortunate that I did not do slightly better so as to be an expert on the carbine and sharpshooter with M-1.

Your package with papers and food arrived yesterday in fine shape. It was enjoyed by all.

We are being assigned our regular spot in the company. This breaks up the present arrangement in unit 193, for we boys from the 6th Regt 1st Co had all congregated there. However, we shall still be taking basic training together for several weeks, and will see each other every day.

At last reports, I am still a rifleman. Today, besides being mauled, many of the "fillers" were assigned to the heavy weapons co where we have the mortars, M.G.'s B.A.R.'s etc. There is no apparent basis for selection.

We were all given a driver's test today, 20 with perception reaction time, side vision, eye test, color blinds, & glare test. All O.K. in this. This is still inf., but I do judge little chance to trade my rifle

for a jeep. This would appear to me to be a more interesting job than a regular infantryman. Let's hope I'm lucky.

I believe you have been saying that you agree that the artillery is a more desirable place than infantry. It probably is, but that does no good.

So this was to be a short letter? Oh Yes, I had a nice letter from Bill A.

Love Son

Thomas

Air Mail

Fri. Apr. 7, 44

Dear Mother and Dad;

Here you see some of the bad results arising from our heavy schedule this week. Here I find that the letter I wrote and addressed two days ago has as yet been unmailed. I'm sure it will get off this time. Let's hope that you haven't been driven to the Red Cross for information as to my whereabouts.

The period of separation of the A S & P "fillers" from the

rest of the company has
ended. Tomorrow we become
part of regular company, and
our period of basic training
I believe, is considered ended.
I am still assigned as rifle-
man, which is not such a
bad job when you compare it
with the machine gunners
and mortar men. Casualties
among these groups are quite
high, since the enemy has
more reason to eliminate
them and their weapons.

Tomorrow promises to be
a big day. The whole company

will go out, and act as units, squads and platoons. Our newly developed skills as marksmen is to be tested by the appearance of unlooked-for targets. We are to fire on them with our M-1 with live ammunition. Later on, each guy is to get a chance to throw a few hand grenades. I understand these are to be thrown from a pit, so as to protect the throwers from fragments.

It has developed that

two men taking the driver's test that I mentioned were accepted from our company as truck drivers. Naturally I was not among them. Rumor has it that approximately 40 men will be withdrawn from the company for assignment with headquarters company sometime in the future. Perhaps this will leave more openings here in the company, and I may be made something else besides a rifleman.

You doubtless noticed I have changed stationery. This



Air Mail

is some that Aunt Alice was so kind to send me. It is of very good quality, I think, and certainly good enough to use, even tho I don't send my letters by air mail.

Your Easter package has not arrived as yet. Perhaps it will by tomorrow.

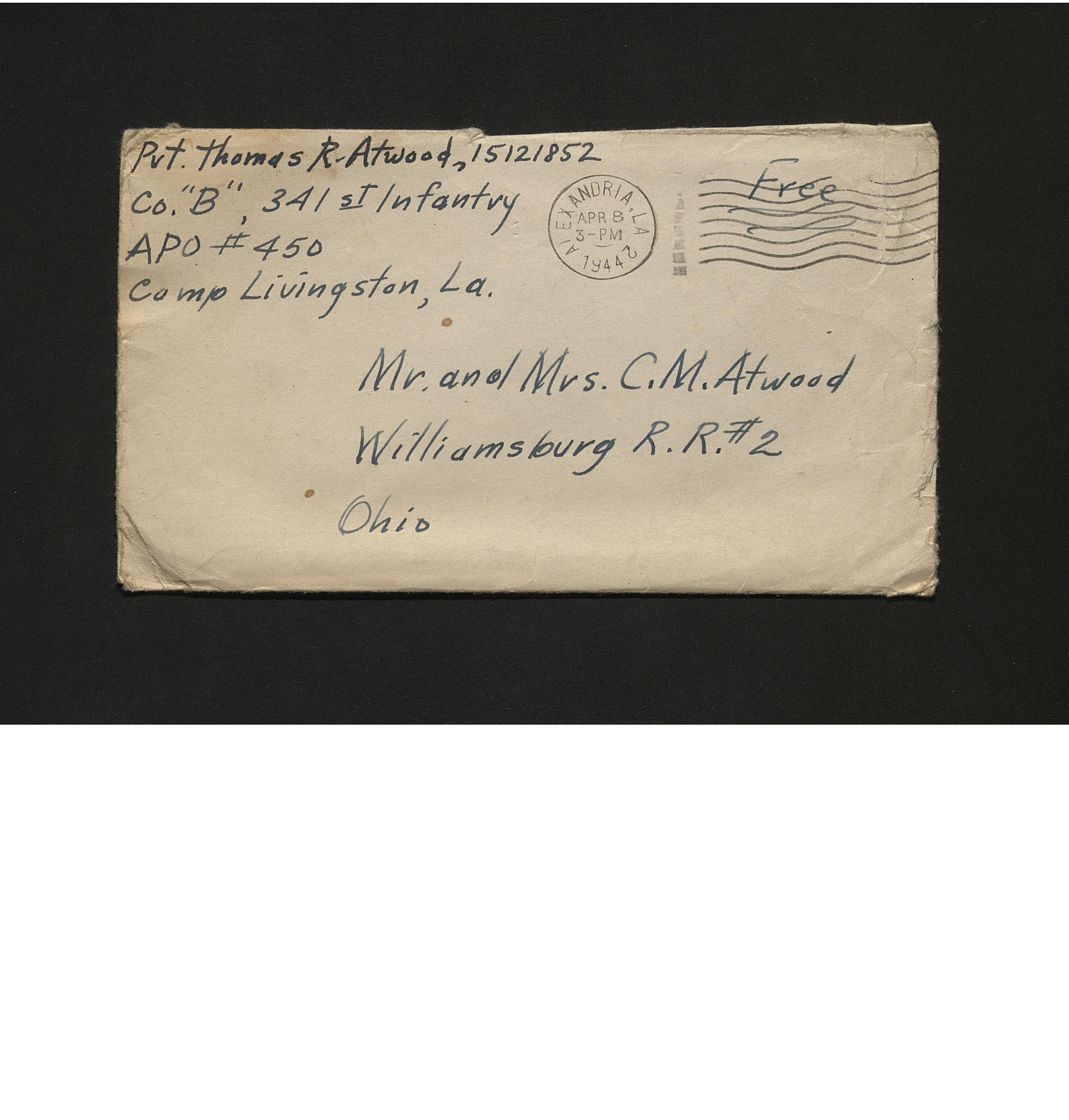
A special Easter service is planned for us in the Recreation hall here at camp. It begins at 7:30, and many of the boys including myself

plan to attend.

Tonight's supper was an outstanding one, the reason being, I suppose, Good Friday.

Your son
Thomas

P.S. Thanks very much for the Easter card and bill. I'm sorry this can't arrive in time, but you'll enjoy it anyway, I hope.


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "B", 341st Infantry
APO # 450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
APR 8
3-PM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Air Mail

Wed. Oct. 12, 44

Dear Mother and Dad;

The letter writing situation has been very bad lately. This is mainly due to the various night problems we have been having, and will have again in the future. As yet I have not answered Bill H.'s letter. He will doubtless wonder what has become of me.

Mon. night the whole Batallion was transported by truck about ten miles from camp out to the more rugged and

wooded terrain. After nightfall we practiced infiltration tactics. One company tried to infiltrate thru the prepared defense line of the other two companies. The defenders were given blank ammunition with which to blaze away at the enemy, if and when they could be located. As it usually does here, rain fell steadily for several hours during the problem. The moon was completely hidden, and at one time during the heaviest rain, one could not see five feet ahead.

Our company was defending

By the way. Tomorrow night we have to change places and be the infiltrators. Since the problem consumes the time between 7:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M. I will have rather a full evening. Naturally we get the next morning off.

My Easter, unfortunately, was not all that I might have wished it to be. I had to had luck to have K.P. all day, and therefore I missed Easter services, as well as the many other benefits that a holiday offers.

Your package arrived

Air Mail

Saturday, in time for Easter
However, the fudge was a bit soft
and in one ~~[illegible]~~ I must close now,
Since time is short

Your son

Thomas

Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "B", 341st Infantry
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA.
APR 15
10:00AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg, R.R. #2
Ohio

Air Mail

Sat. Apr. 14, 44

Dear Mother and Dad.

Once again there is a slight change in address. Indications are that this may be my final resting spot for some time.

Company "D" is a heavy weapons company. The heavy weapons which we have are the 81 mm. mortar and the .30 cal M.G. At the present time I am listed as "No. 2 gunner" on a machine gun. How long I shall remain in this position is open to question. Undoubtedly I shall have the opportunity to fire this weapon before long.

Furloughs here are being dished out in large quantities. Here is a fairly good chance that I may get one. When and if my furlough comes up, I shall immediately write, so you will know of our good fortune. I plan to come by way of Louisville.

A choice bit of rumor has developed. It seems that the [redacted]th division is preparing to move in entirety (also including Cousin H. Bowman.) Perhaps that is why he has not answered my letter of a week or so ago.

Air Mail

Yesterday, I experienced my first forced march. This was only a one hour march, with M-1 and light field pack. We made good time. 5 miles in 55 minutes; better than 5 m.p.h. I ~~made~~ completed the march in fairly good style, for my legs were in good shape today.

It seems they do this often around here to keep everyone in shape. Some of the boys apparently needed a bit more preliminary exercise, for several were forced to drop out.

I plan, at last, to have a picture taken. There is a camp studio here that is easily available on Sunday. I shall see what they have to offer.

Your son

Thomas

Air Mail

Tues. Apr. 18, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I received your letter telling Kenton's and Ruth's arrival. I trust you all had a most enjoyable week end.

Kenton's new job naturally interests me. Doubtless you will give me more information as to the time, place, and kind of work.

Today we had a big inspection. Everything was included, weapons, barracks, mess hall, and all issued equipment. Failure to pass meant restriction to the company area for as long the authorities deemed fit.

Fortunately, everyone in our barracks had nothing too noticeably wrong to merit a gig.

It was a bit difficult for myself and Mr. Goldberg to get ready for this inspection, however, all the new men have been doing K.P. at least every other day since they arrived. Reason for this is that all the privates of the company have been shipped out, leaving the non-coms, who, naturally will avoid K.P. if possible.

So far, I have had K.P. only twice since arrival. I hear reports that others have not been so lucky.

I understand that Air Corps men are being brought in to fill

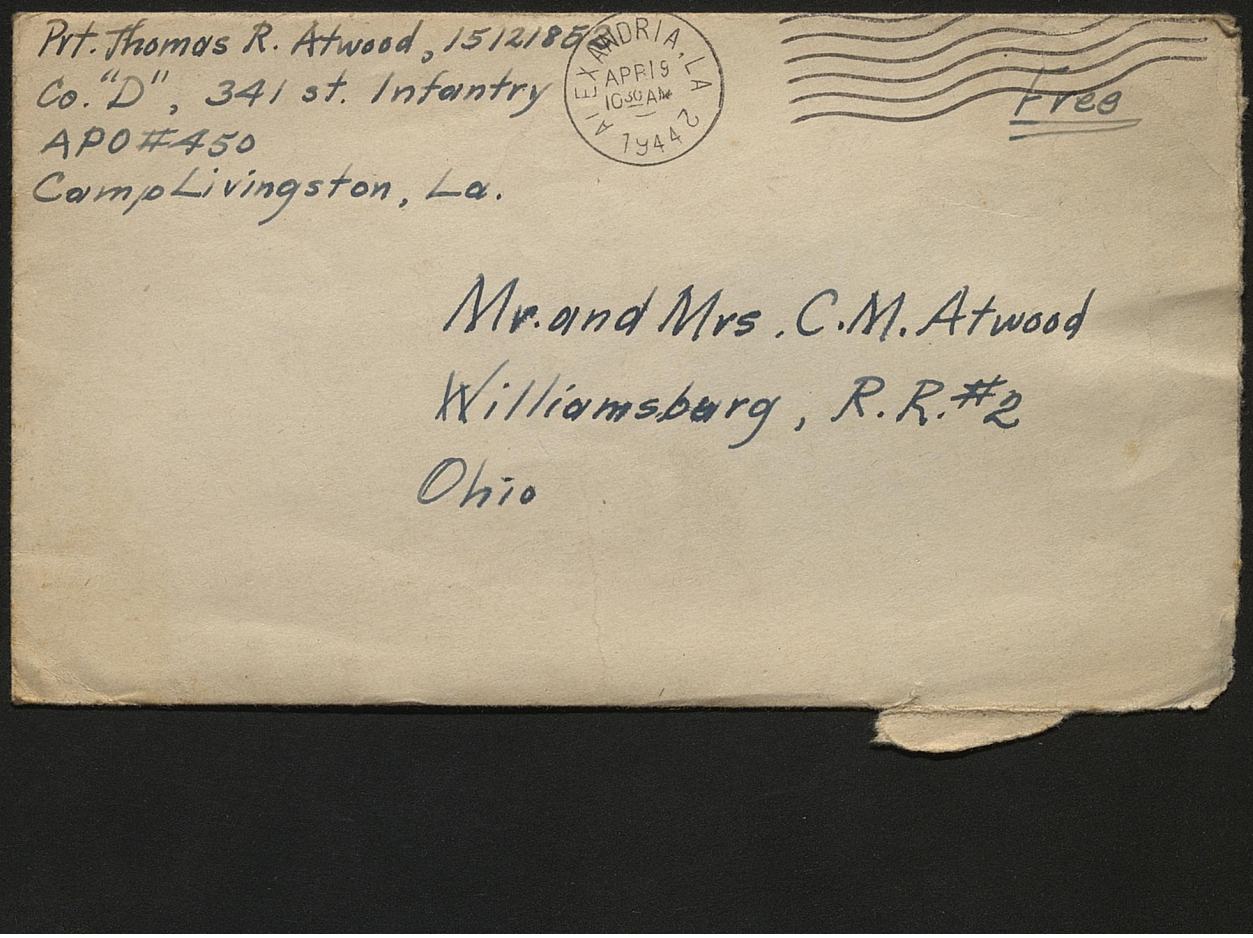
Air Mail

up the company. We all hope they arrive soon in large numbers.

Another interesting bit of rumor has it that the Batallion will participate in a 25 mile hike next Mon. I should think that very soon Arthur A. and myself will have much in common to discuss.

Weather down here is rather hot and humid at the present. I imagine that the real summer here will not be too pleasant.

Oh yes, have you heard from Bill V.'s mother? Yours sincerely Thomas


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121855
Co. "D", 341 st. Infantry
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
APR 19
10:30 AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg, R.R. #2
Ohio

Mon., April 24, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Your package arrived yesterday, and although it looked well battered, the contents were unharmed. All the various articles will be very useful. I am munching on some of the candy at the moment. However, unless you absolutely want too, it is not necessary to send me toilet articles since such items can be bought at the local PX at reduced prices. Aunt Alice also sent me a package of dates, which arrived Sat. These dates are very good, in my estimation. Alice

writes that they are grown near the Ashcamas

I find that my optimism concerning the furlough was premature. It is a rule here ~~at~~ in ~~Com~~ the company that one is not entitled to a furlough unless he has served a five-month period. This will mean that my furlough will not be until next June 3rd, or thereabouts. You tell me that Bill U. has already had a furlough. This just serves to indicate the different systems in effect in different camps. I should not think that I will need any extra money to come home. I may need some to get back again however. I shall try to save more of my $23.00 per month instead of spending it all!

Your son,
Thomas

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15127852
Co. "D", 341st Infantry
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA LA
APR 25
1030 AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Wed. April 26, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The letters have been coming thru regularly, taking only two days for the journey.

I was most surprised to hear of Henry B.'s latest move. Unfortunately, he has not succeeded in finding me, so apparently my address changing has thrown him off the track! It would help matters, I am sure, if you could send me Henry's new address, ~~that~~ things would be greatly simplified.

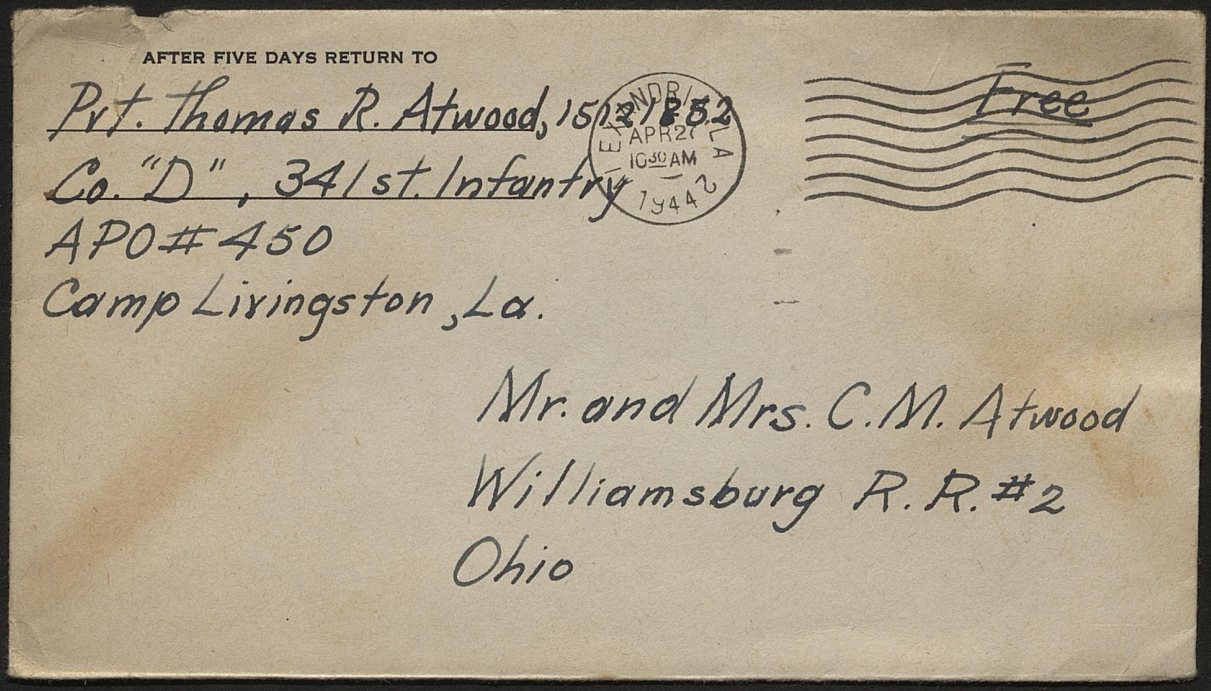
I shall send off the receipts to Merrill tonight, with a short letter.

Harry W. came thru today also, with his usual short letter and the "Courier". It seems that every time I pick up the home newspaper, the front page is always

decorated with the article, "90 more men enter ranks." I should think by now that the pickings would be very slim indeed. By the way, how is Bert Carr coming along? He went to Fort Thomas, I suppose. By now, he should have left for his more or less permanent camp, I should think.

I'm rather sleepy tonight, so I shall go to bed now.

Your son
Thomas



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15[illegible]
Co. "D", 341st. Infantry
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Thurs. April 27, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

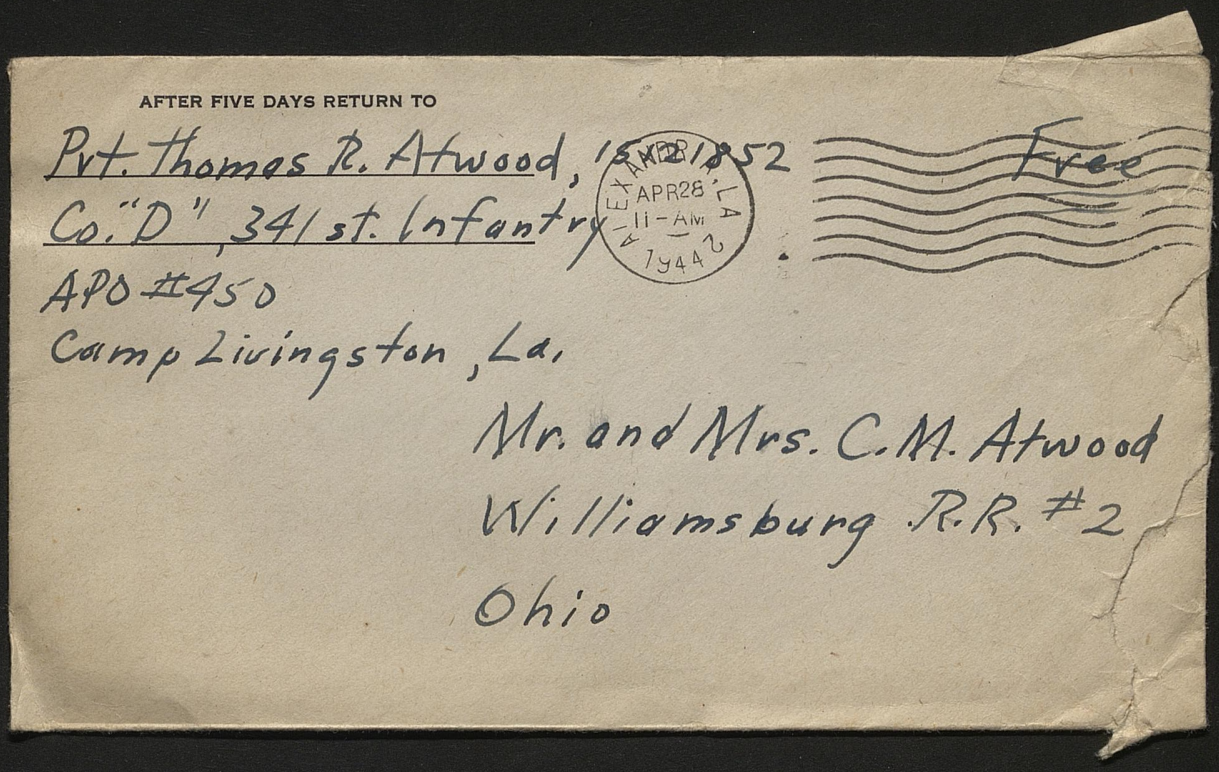
I have been writing numerous short letters tonight, so I may as well hack out another.

The MG firing was postponed until today. Everything came out well. I qualified with a score of 74 out of 104. This is not especially good, but good enough, considering the fact that we have had very little time for preparatory training.

Tomorrow we are to have six hours of "dry firing" with the .45 cal. automatic. This should be very interesting when we go on the range next Saturday.

So far I have head nothing from Henry.

Your son
Thomas



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15218952
Co. "D", 341st. Infantry
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA LA
APR 28
11-AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY Sat. April 29, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The huge "king size" package came thru unexpectedly today. The letter announcing its arrival came today also, in fact two letters came today from home in addition to the package; one of which should have arrived yesterday.

Everything you sent was strictly what we need. The whole fifth squad, including myself, is deeply indebted. I shall religiously refrain from eating the contents; that is - except the candies, which are on the semi-liquid side.

They have been disposed with relish, including the gum drops which were set out to appease the hungry crowd. Everything else appears to be in fine shape. How many points did the cheese set you back? Oh, but we'll eat it with relish anyway. I intend to mail the mailing bag to you tomorrow, with several books inside.

Oh yes, Mrs. Wolfe's pocket books are very welcome. I shall write her tonight, perhaps. Anyway, I will write her that long-due letter, thus relieving the tension, I hope.

Yes, I received those pictures, even tho there has been no indication of the fact in my letters home.

UNITED STATES ARMY

I have been playing an interesting game lately with that picture of yours, Mother. That is the picture in which you have ~~that~~ youthful appearance and dress of Aunt Alice's. Anyway, when I display my handful of pictures, they always exclaim upon coming to yours, "Oh, a picture of your sister!" I say yes and then ask for an age estimation. The lowest estimation to date by a Sgt. Wagner was 17 yrs. After thorough study, another individual estimated 30 years, the highest estimate to date. All in all, a most interesting pastime. Your son

Thomas

Sat. May 6, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Forgive me for being silent. It seems that I have been writing everyone else but home. Naturally this is very undesirable, so I shall send your letter off first of all, ~~so~~ to prevent any slip up tonight.

The last ~~se~~ two days I have been firing on the M G range. The range this time was the surprise target variety. There are eight different targets at which we are to fire, and any ~~th~~ of them may appear. The idea is to locate the target as it jumps up, estimate the range, lay the sights upon the target, and then hit the target with two bursts of 6 shots each, observing where the initial burst struck for any corrections.

Unfortunately, I was the first man

to fire on these targets on Fri. morning. The Sun was behind the targets, making them very difficult to see. Since I did not know the position of the targets either, or their exact range (as all the other men firing later did from watching the men ahead of them), I hit only 1 out of the 8. very poor firing. So, instead of going on a three day pass last night with friend Goldberg to New Orleans, I had to fire again today. I did much better today, qualifying with 6 targets out of eight. The ranges of these targets are from 400 to 800 yds, by the way, and they are about as large as two men's torso's. 

No, Renton has not written, as you may have suspected. I shall write him tonight. Perhaps I can get some response from both Renton and Ruth.

It is rather difficult to believe that spring is just getting well under-way back home. when it has been so warm here for the last two months. I certainly hope that rainfall

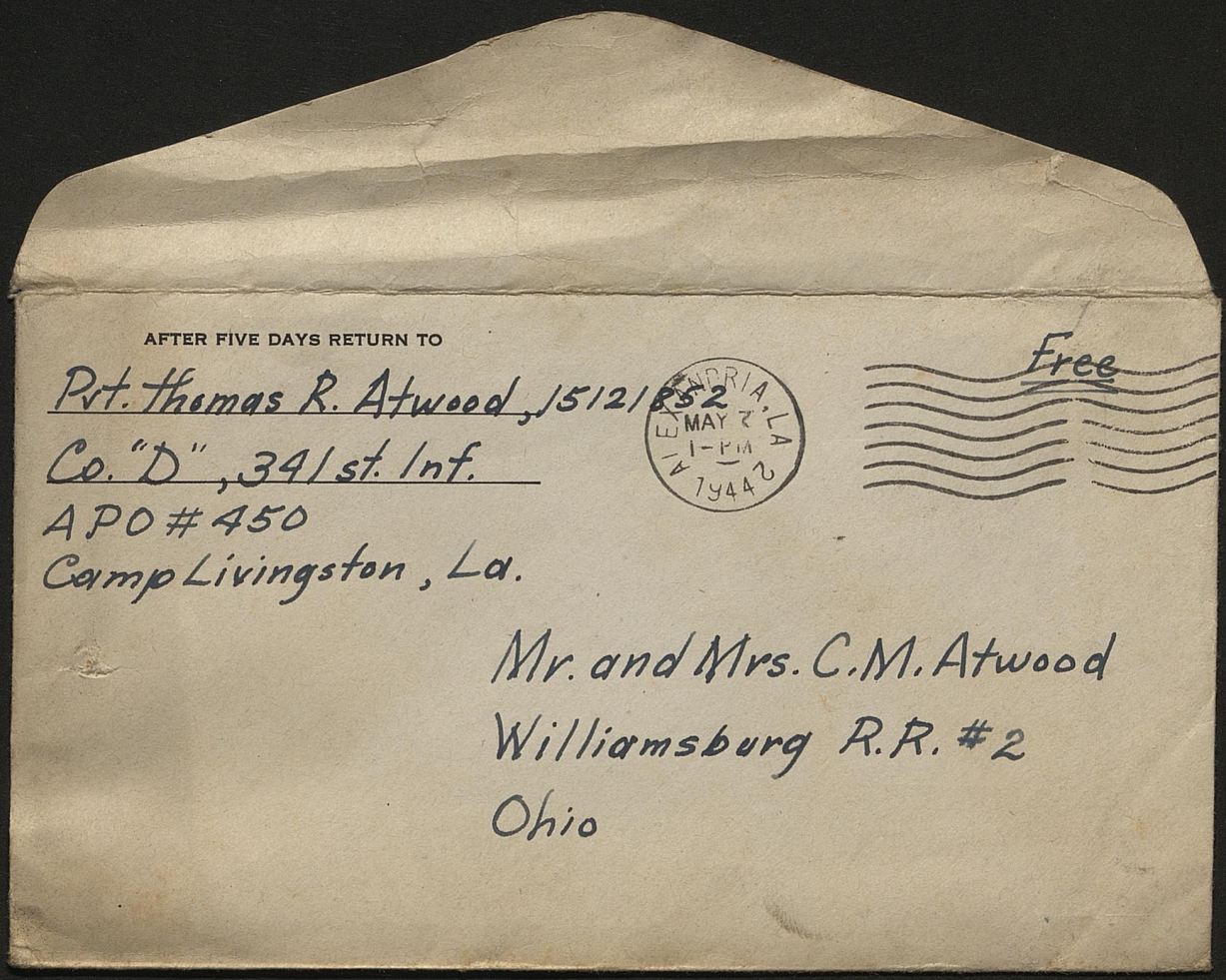
has been much less at home than here, for certainly with that much rainfall, planting would be halted for weeks.

The new 4-H plan sounds good to me. I will always maintain that there are much better places than Owensville for the conference, even though I did go to school there. I see that Co. Agent Rehl is not afraid of tradition.

Oh yes, about those pictures. I may as well tell you that I haven't yet been to the studio. But - I'll get there if it kills me.

The furlough should come about along sometime next month. We will just have to wait and see. I do for they are very anxious to give men furloughs. I hope the policy holds true.

In my spare moments, I have been playing soft-ball with the company team. I am only second-string, but am trucking to play more. We have won two straight games in competition so far. Thanks



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121652
Co. "D", 341st. Inf.
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
MAY 2
1-PM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

May 13, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Here are my belated Mother's Day greetings. Kenton was strictly on the ball with greetings a week early, and now I come along with mine a week late. I'm very sorry not to have been able to send my Mother's day present, a picture, properly autographed; but for perhaps they will be just as welcome later.

Anyway, I hope the day was a very pleasant for everyone. Perhaps you will have a large turn-out for church service, since the holidays sometime swell the congregation.

This week have been what you might say exceptionally busy for me. I started things off with two days of K. P. and ended it up with a day

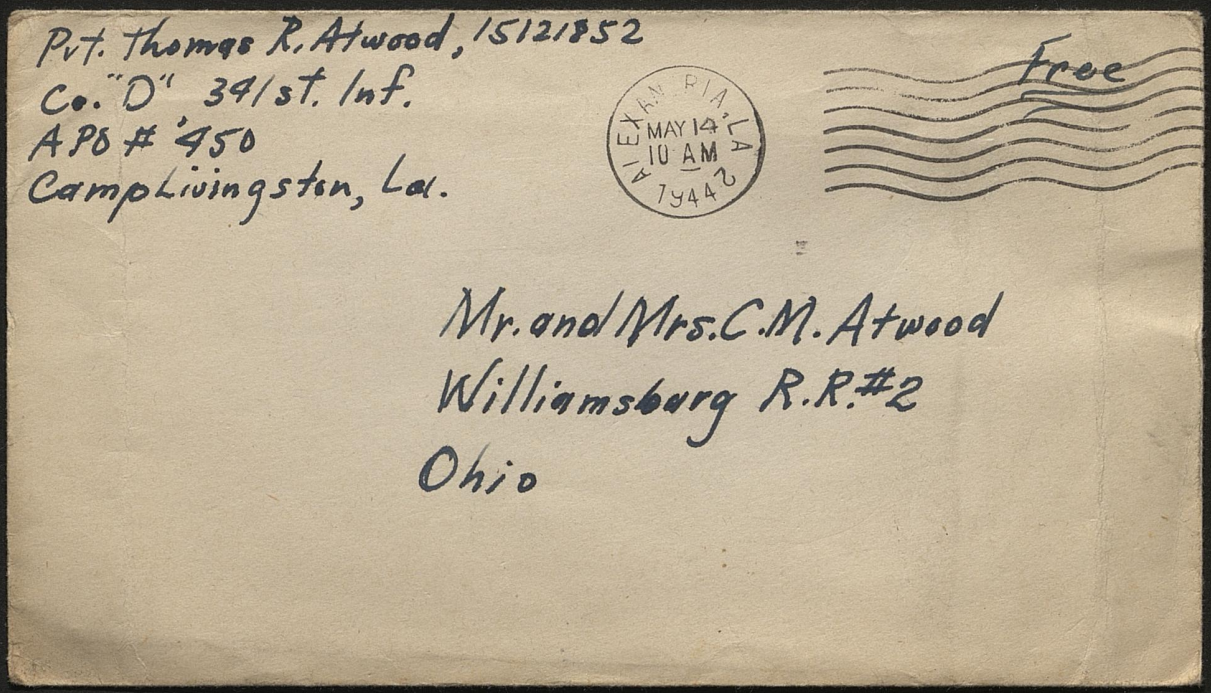
of guard duty. The guard duty really extends over two days since it is a 1 hour to hour job. The plan they have calls for a two hour period of duty and then 4 hours off, for the whole period of 24 hours. I found the walking quite tiring, especially in the day time, since they require one to set a fast pace around the assigned post. At night though it is much cooler, and also one is hidden from the officer of the Guard by darkness.

At any rate, after coming off guard, one feels quite dead for the rest of the day, especially in the lower regions.

I now have Henry's address, but still I am having trouble in locating him. No one I ask has heard of the Signal Photo Co. I will keep on asking until I am successful.

As soon as the pictures are available, I will send them post-haste.

Yours ever
Tommy



Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D" 341st. Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
MAY 14
10 AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Mon. May 14, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The pictures came there yesterday, in good shape. Now I have an idea as to what Bill and Irene look like. My pictures should be on the way soon, for the proofs were ready for my approval tonight. However, I was unable to make the trip to the studio tonight because of a baseball game which lasted long into the evening. Tomorrow I should have time off. By the way, we won a resounding victory, 7 to 0, even though it was only a practice game.

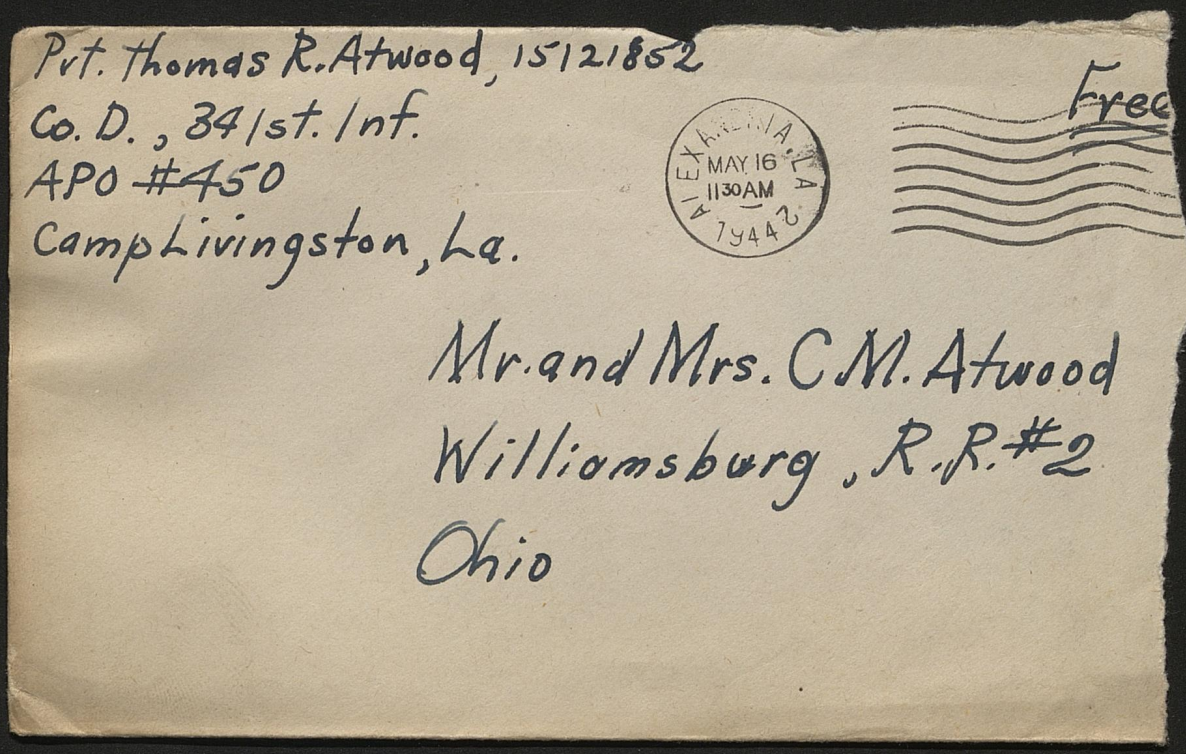
There has been no word as yet from Evansville, I'm

getting a bit impatient, but perhaps a letter will come my way soon.

James Garrett has written me two letters to date. He says that the airborne infantry training is very rugged, "even the paratroopers don't bother us." The paratroopers, of course, have the reputation of being the tough super-man type, and so are often enveloped in inferior complex proving it.

Our training progresses. We are doing plenty of double timing to increase the wind and strengthen the legs, I suppose. With all the heat that we now experience, it doesn't take much exertion to make the sweat pour. In this case, it's the humidity again, rather than such a high temperature.

Yours ever,
James



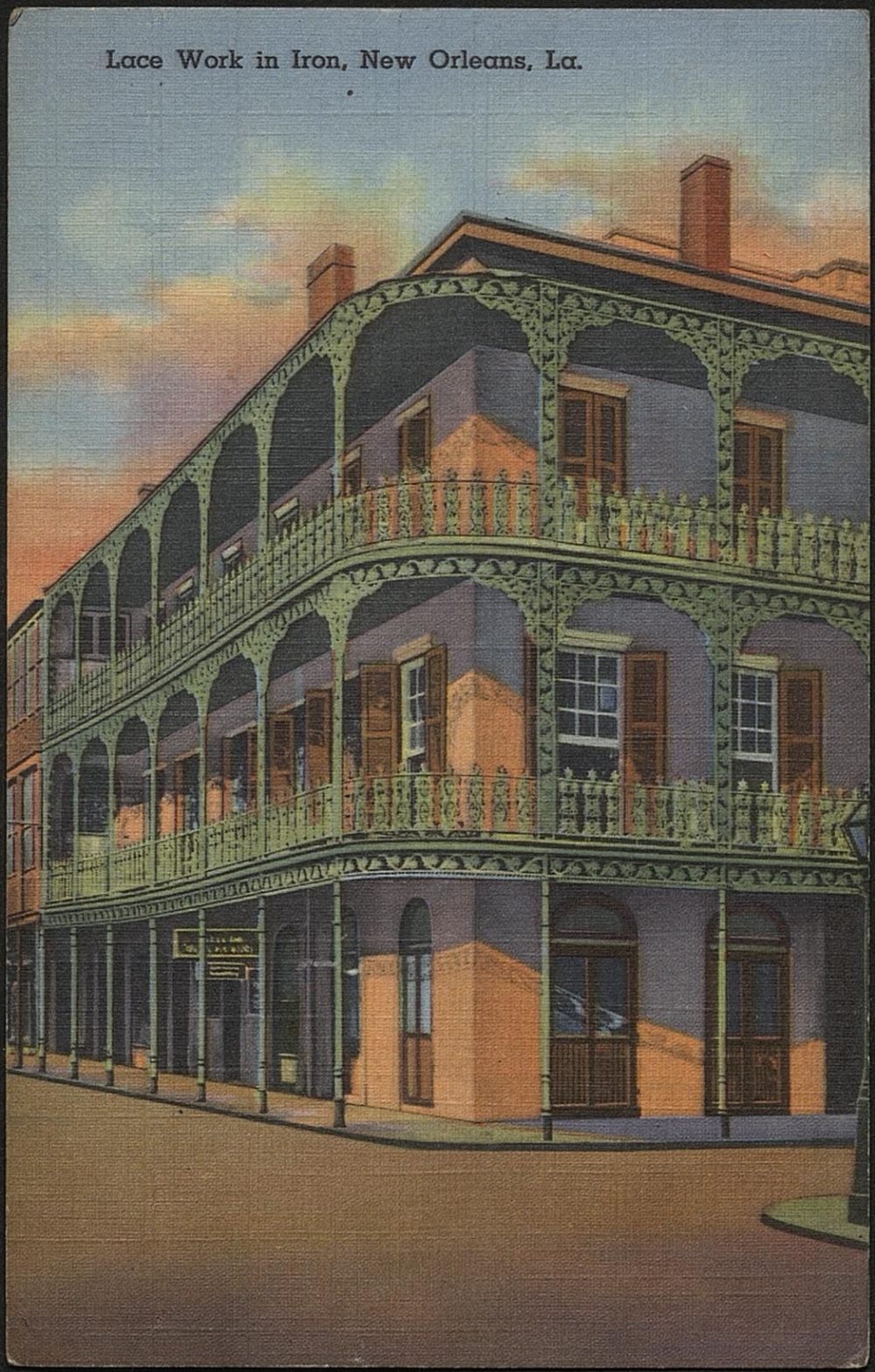
Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D., 341st. Inf.
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

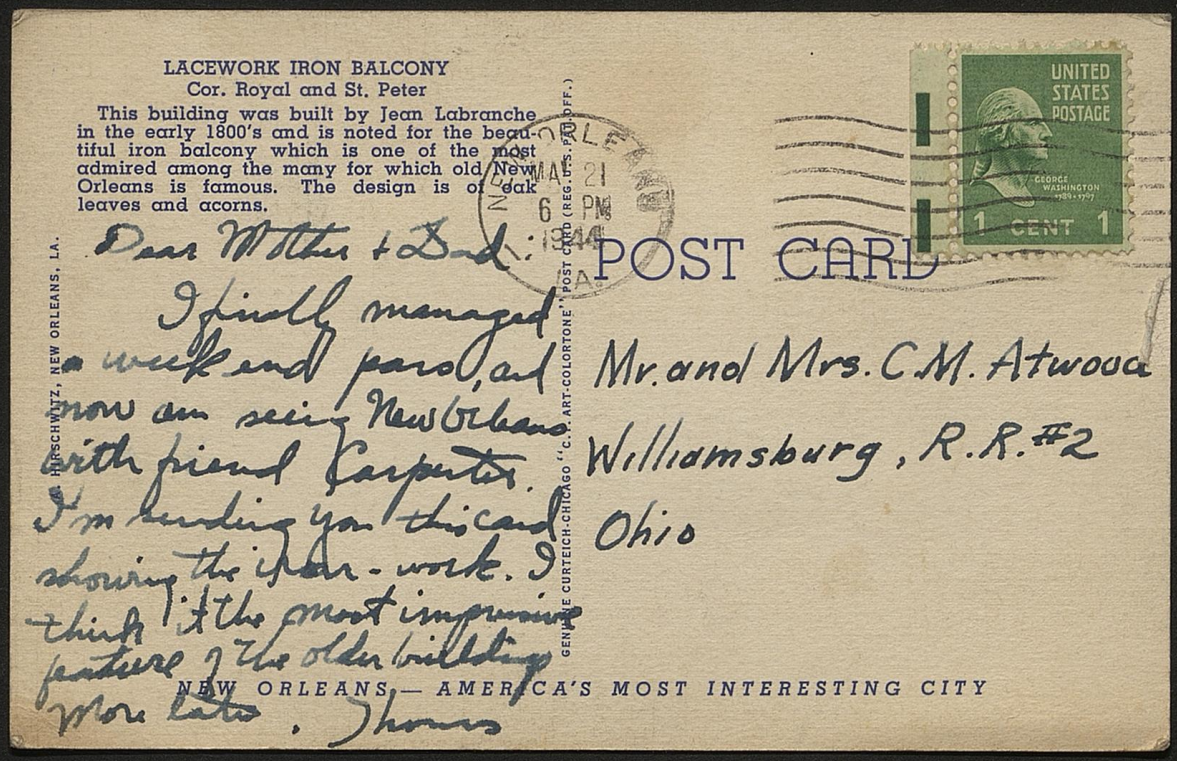
ALEXANDRIA, LA
MAY 16
1130AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C M. Atwood
Williamsburg, R.R. #2
Ohio

Lace Work in Iron, New Orleans, La.





LACEWORK IRON BALCONY
Cor. Royal and St. Peter

This building was built by Jean Labranche in the early 1800's and is noted for the beautiful iron balcony which is one of the most admired among the many for which old New Orleans is famous. The design is of oak leaves and acorns.

HIRSCHWITZ, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

GENUINE CURTEICH-CHICAGO "C.T. ART-COLORTONE" POST CARD (REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

NEW ORLEANS MAY 21 6 PM 1944 LA.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
GEORGE WASHINGTON 1789-1797
1 CENT 1

POST CARD

Dear Mother + Dad:
I finally managed a week end pass, and now am seeing New Orleans with friend Carpenter. I'm sending you this card showing the iron-work. I think it the most impressive feature of the older buildings. More later. Thomas

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg, R.R. #2
Ohio

NEW ORLEANS — AMERICA'S MOST INTERESTING CITY

Thurs. May 25, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Perhaps you have received my post card by now; the one sent from New Orleans. I took advantage of my first pass in a big way. Mr. Carpenter and I took the bus from Alexandria early Fri. night and arrived in New Orleans about 3:00 AM Sat. Morning. Luckily, we found a hotel near the bus station with one vacant room. Reports have it that practically every available place to stay is filled to the brim at all times with conditions as they are now. Anyway, the hotel was located within easy reach of the French Quarter, which, after all, is what one comes to see.

As I said, the post card is an excellent example

the beautiful ironwork they have on most of the older buildings. Some of the designs are very beautiful and intricate. According to one of our guides (we hired one to show us the town in a horse drawn carriage) the ironwork was done largely by the slaves.

We occupied our time too with a boat ride up the Miss. in the large river boat "President". It is built very similarly to the "Island Queen." However, the scenery is very different, because the "President" makes a tour of the New Orleans waterfront, altogether about ten miles upstream. There were numerous naval craft in the docks and also a few South American vessels, some Argentinian ones, I believe.

I also took Kenton's advice, ~~[illegible]~~ as we had our meal at Antoine's restaurant. Not knowing French has its disadvantages, but we managed with the help of the waiter, and finally came out with a meal consisting mainly of shrimp, roast turkey and French bread.

All of this tripping, eating, and site-seeing about in general naturally amounted quite a bit of cash, in fact $25.00 to be exact. I'll get paid soon, though, the last of the the month.

My furlough is due to come up sometime in June. Perhaps the 11th, although the exact date is not certain. Anyway, it won't be long now.

Since I have spent my money in New Orleans, we must bring up there sordid money matters. I will get about $25.00 the 31st of this month, but I shall be needing more than that, about $40.00, to get my round-trip ticket, shut-ins on the way and so forth. Therefore if any of my funds are available in Philadelphia, or if you can dig up $15.00 from somewhere, I should be glad to have it sent my way soon. I would rather do this than borrow from the boys, especially since it would be hard to repay right away.

By the way, has John's property been sold? I would think that the closing of the buyers about would be getting

just a bit old for dad. But I suppose repetition makes for perfection.

I enclose the pictures, and I hope they meet with general approval. You will notice I had two types taken, one with and the other without teeth. The sales lady, you may call her, liked the one without. I liked the one with teeth. Therefore, we compromised with one of each. I am keeping one. The others you may distribute as seems proper.

Perhaps Perhaps we could have a few reduced reprints made if they especially appeal to you. You will notice the various attempts made to touch up my image. The large mole is missing, and the developing

tried hard to tone down my adam's apple, without much success as you see. Also, the bags under my eyes were very noticeable in these pictures but they have been skillfully removed. In the picture in which I am smiling, the ~~stain~~ squint in my left eye is not due to any injury, but must be natural with me.

By the way, I managed to finally break my pair of plastic-rim glasses. It all happened during one of our numerous night problems. An enemy raiding patrol infiltrated our lines, and during the struggle my glasses were tripped off and stepped on. One lens remains, and the rims are slightly battered. I'm using my spare.

Enough for now. Yours very sincerely

Sat. May 27, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Kenton finally came thru with a letter from New York today. It was a slight surprise since I had expected them to be in Louisville a few days longer.

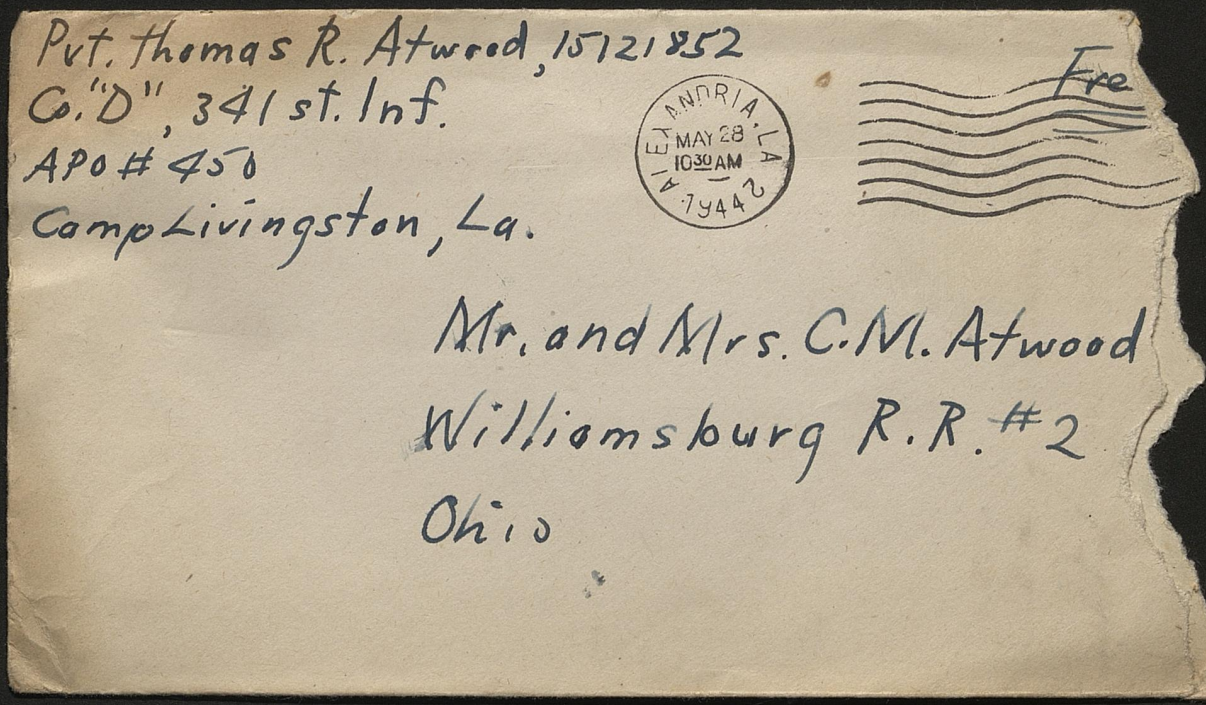
At any rate, this offers me a good opportunity for extending my stay at home. This can be done by my giving my destination as New York, and I will get a few more days traveling time which can be spent at home. The only catch seems to be in getting Kenton's permanent address. Heard Ruth sent the letter from the Prince George Hotel. If you have any new information on their present address please send it at once, since my furlough starts the 6th of June.

The reason for having Kenton's exact address is so that if the Army wishes to check up (it is rumored that they do) to ask if I have been a complete, etc., Kenton can give them the information.

I trust that the various graduations have gone off well. I'm glad that the Senior play was such a success. By the way, I don't believe that I remember who was to be valedictorian at the big commencement.

Your son,
Jimmie

Oh yes. You want to know about Carpenter. He is one of the ex-infantry, ex-air corps men, now infantry again. He is about 24 years old and has been training now for two years without going across. He's married.


Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341 st. Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
MAY 28
10:30 AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Tues. June 6, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I'm on my way home now. Everything went well until we arrived late here at Memphis. As a result there will be an 8 hour wait for the Louisville train tonight.

My furlough is the 7 day variety, with three extra days for traveling time. Unless I make better time returning, the three day estimate seems a bit low.

I think it would be best to stay in Louisville Ky. with Keaton and Ruth for a few days, and then come on with them later, as you suggested.

Oh yes, your money order

came there last week. Unfortunately, before I cashed it, the money order was lost, misplaced, or stolen. I still suspect it is to be found somewhere in my footlocker. You see, my financial position was not nearly so bad as I suspected, and therefore I did not need the $15.00 earlier. Anyway, it might be best to cancel it, if such action is possible, just in case someone has "done me wrong."

Your son
Thomas



FROM Pvt. Thomas R. Atwood
Co. "D", 341st. Inf.
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

MEMPHIS
JUN 6
10 PM
1944
TENN.

AIR 8 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Mon. June 26. '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The mails seem to be a bit slow, especially the northbound mail. Perhaps you have word from me by now.

The 95° heat is still very noticeable here. It has been this way for two weeks now, according to the weathermen, and no rain or relief seems to be in sight. I consume about a gallon of water a day in addition to numerous salt pills in order to combat the heat. Reports have it that Louisiana is good training for fighting in the

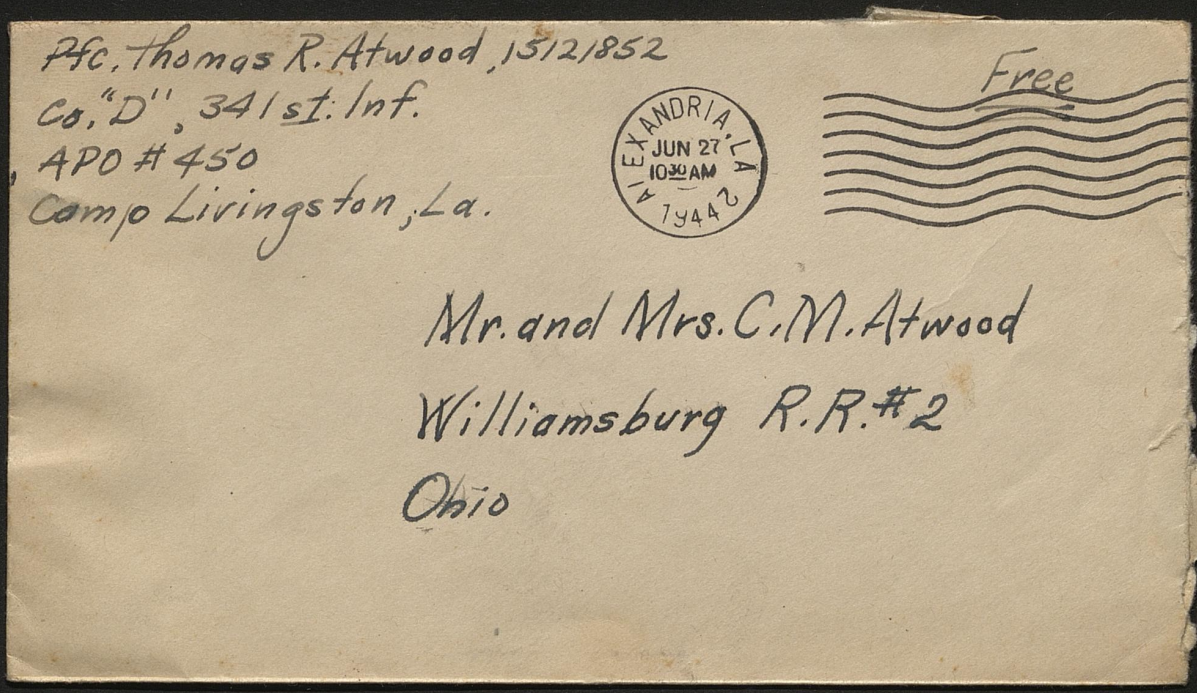
South Pacific area. In fact the returning veterans refer to the South Pacific as "Louisiana No. 2", but I guess it is more uncomfortable there.

I was very sorry to hear of Mrs. Jordan's passing. However, it was beginning to become apparent that her time was approaching, so that the shock and sorrow was probably as great as if it had been someone younger.

Training progresses here as usual. So far I have not learned of Henry's return from furlough. Perhaps we should get together next June, and all go swimming. The pool here is quite large and cooling and therefore very popular these days.

Oh yes, the package arrived. Many thanks.

Yours ever
Jimmie



Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st. Inf.
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
JUN 27
10:30 AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Mon. July 3, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, well another month. Tomorrow is the fiery fourth, but for the Army as well as many others, there will be no holiday.

I'm glad to hear of the break in your heat wave. Down here we also have had partial relief. It rained for a few hours Sunday, and tonight things are looking just a bit threatening!

UNITED STATES ARMY

3, 44

I suspect that great ball of fire dancing thru the Serado streets created quite a sensation.

Oh yes, Goldberg has come across with those pictures. I believe my companion took a better picture than myself, due to a slight shadow across my face.

I'll be looking forward to those pictures from home.

No word from Keaton, by the way. Perhaps he will cut loose subsequently.

Oh yes - do you think it possible to have my plastic glasses repaired?

P.S. No sign on the money order.

Your son
Thomas

Wed. July 6, 1944
Sat. July 9, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Pretty soon I shall have to invest in some more classy stationery, since these ragged sheets are becoming slightly dogeared.

The glorious "fourth" was spent here at Livingston just as we do all the other week days. The only indication of it's being a holiday was our ice-cream dessert for the noon meal. Yesterday we went out to range 12 for a little machine gun problem which was just serving as a practice ~~problem~~ for a more important division test next week. The test yesterday was a sweat-raiser of the first order, since we double-timed up-hill and down-hill thru the brush at break neck speed. We also had live ammunition with which to fire upon various targets which ~~represented~~ represented enemy positions.

Tomorrow there is another problem coming along which is termed "~~a~~ Small village, or street fighting". In this problem the MG section let the riflemen go into the town, and we sit back on some convenient hill, firing down the streets. In this way the MG fire divides

the village into sections, thus making it easier for the riflemen and also supposidly splitting enemy forces.

As yet I have no word from cousin Henry. Always word from Benton, Alice and the others. Your letters are therefore doubly welcome. I suspect that my correspondence is dropping off due to my neglect. I shall have to spend less time playing ping pong with Goldberg and more with the pen.

Speaking of Goldberg, he plans to have his folks send him a radio for use in the hut. It will certainly be a godsend for us all, as you know. I like my radio and all the various little programs.

I must close now due to the day room being closed.

About Bill H. - I rather regret his going into the Army, although at the present time I'm sure he feels ~~no~~ ..... that he has done the right thing to ease his conscience. Most people seem to think that more advantages are offered by the Navy, but since he has made the fatal step, there is no changing it.

Your son
Lowell

Since I wrote most of the last sheet some time ago there has been enough time and events transpiring to furnish more writing material.

It seems that about the 25th of this month the company is to go out into the field. This time but I'll have my first major battles with our man-sized skeeters and mosquitos. This year they are running wild again, so that the struggle is slated to be one of major proportions.

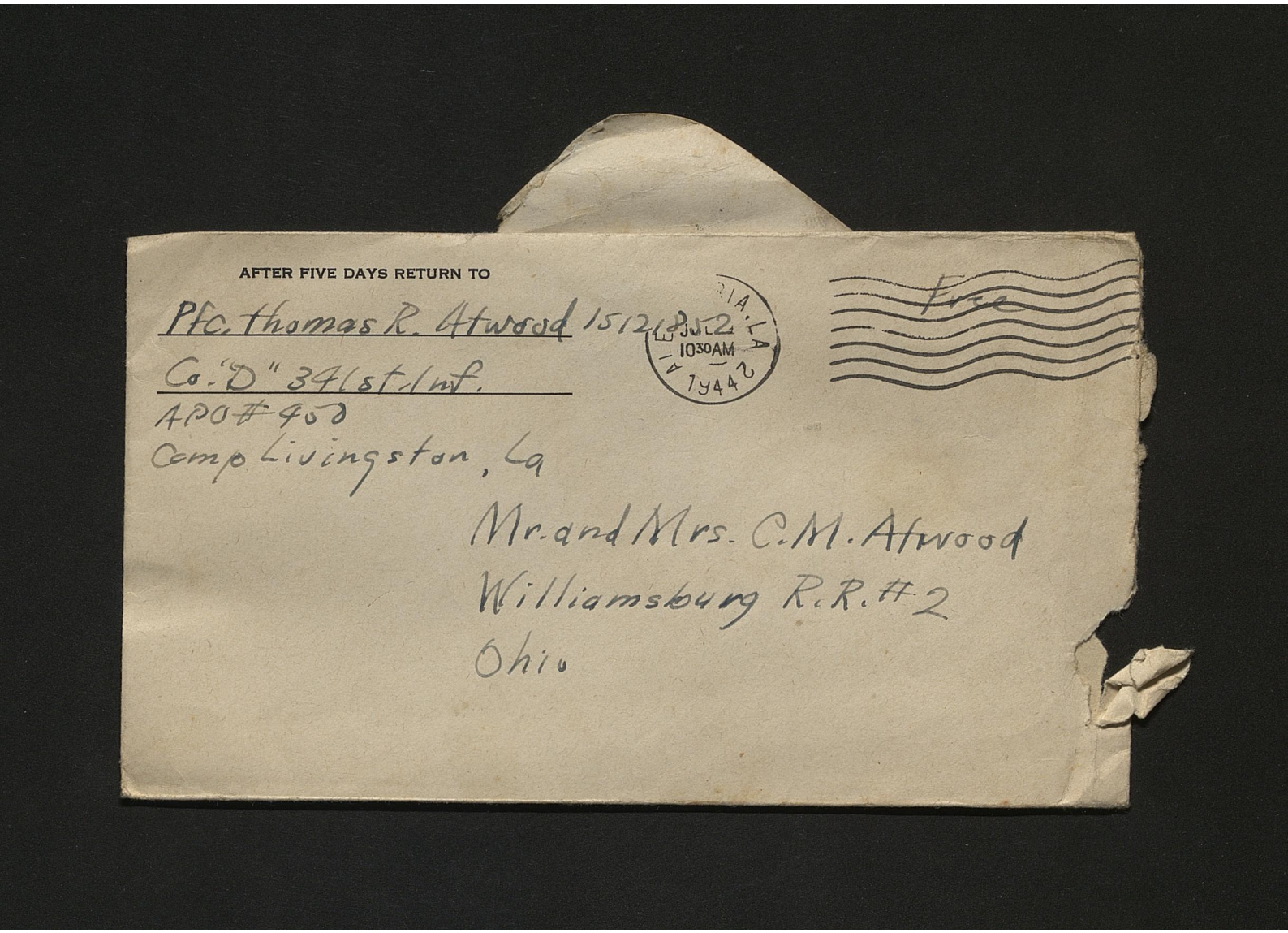
This "D" series maneuvers is to last one month and after that there are rumors to the effect that we all will have a change in address. No one knows anything for sure, ~~so that~~ since that is always the way things operated in the Army.

Yesterday our battalion had a night problem. They called it a "tactical bivouac." No lights, smoking or talking were orders of the day. Needless to say, I got little sleep out in the forest primeval. Practically everyone else had similar troubles of their own.

Today I was scheduled for K.P., but they were a bit lenient with us. Our shift went on this morning and only had half a day of work. Tomorrow morning I drew a "pit detail" which consists of a little target pulling. This will interrupt my Sunday morning considerably, but the situation cannot be remedied.

I just received a letter from O.W. Onstott, my school chum. He is a part of the Naval V-12 program, which is similar to the ASTP studies. At present he is stationed at Notre Dame.

Norman



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Pfc. thomas R. Atwood 15121852

Co. "D" 341st. Inf.

APO # 450

Camp Livingston, La

ALEXANDRIA, LA
JUL 2
10 30 AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood

Williamsburg R.R. #2

Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Thurs July 20, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Please pardon the delay in writing. For the last three days we have been battling with nature out in the field, so that my time and desire to write has been rather limited.

I am still unaccustomed to existing in the field, but it should not be long before I learn a few of the old tricks. As yet I have been unable to master sleeping comfortably on the damp sod. I am always stiff and sore upon arising, but strangely enough there are no apparent ill effects. One of the older soldiers told me that

while he was on maneuvers last winter, he never developed a cold, regardless of the degree of exposure. He voiced the opinion that the rugged outdoor weather toughened one. I only hope that it will work in my case.

Yesterday evening the weather began to look threatening just before chow time. Carpenter and myself decided to pitch our pup tent, just to provide against the possibility of a blow catching us unawares. Naturally the others scoffed and made fun, since it takes a little time and trouble to pitch the tent. Sure enough, immediately following chow a driving rain struck, and we enjoyed sweet revenge from

UNITED STATES ARMY

our dry vantage point, watching the boys struggling in the driving wind and rain with their tents. The pup tent is surprisingly effective against rain and the elements, and as Henry has told you, even is not too bad even in the dead of winter.

Speaking of Henry, I have not heard from him, neither from Keston. I trust you have some information on the subject.

Since I have put off most of my letter writing, there have been no messages to Jimmy C., Bill H., Eva S., Mrs. Wolfe, M.T., Mrs. Carr, and all the others. I

must write our two new soldier as soon as possible, probably tonight. Please send me their address as soon as you get them. Realize the inaptitude center address is only temporary, but perhaps I can get one or two letters then.

About my pair of glasses. Are they hopelessly broken? I would prefer to have them repaired if possible, since the G.I. glasses are not to my liking. My others are getting a bit decrepit, also.

Oh yes, since we are going on maneuvers for a month, I suggest that you might send a few boxes appropriately filled. The ~~platoon~~ 5th squad has vowed that they

UNITED STATES ARMY

will all team together, and be self
sufficient as far as food goes, during
our stay in the forest. Otherwords,
we hope for a shower of packages
to supplement the sometimes meagre
chow. Also, we cannot go to the PX
for the little luxuries whenever one
feels like it. If it will facilitate
matters, I shall send the mailing
bag back, so that we can have
something nice and big as a container.
I hope all this meets with your
approval. Mail delivery out in the
field is usually reliable, by the way.

That jungle fighting that Russell
is undergoing sounds really rugged
to me. Send me his address, if you

can get it. Naturally there's no assurance I'll write, but you never can tell.

I've heard from both my college pals, Amstutz and Nathan. At present Amstutz's status is slightly obscure. A week or so ago I received a letter from him ~~[illegible]~~ from Notre Dame Ind., where he was a part of the V-12 program. This is the one similar to ASTP, only you are assured of becoming an ensign if you can master everything. (ASTP did not operate that way.) I sent him a letter only to have it return, with "left no address" ~~[illegible]~~ stamped on the outside, with "medical discharge" written in ink. I certainly hope nothing of the sort has happened, since he will be missing a great opportunity

UNITED STATES ARMY

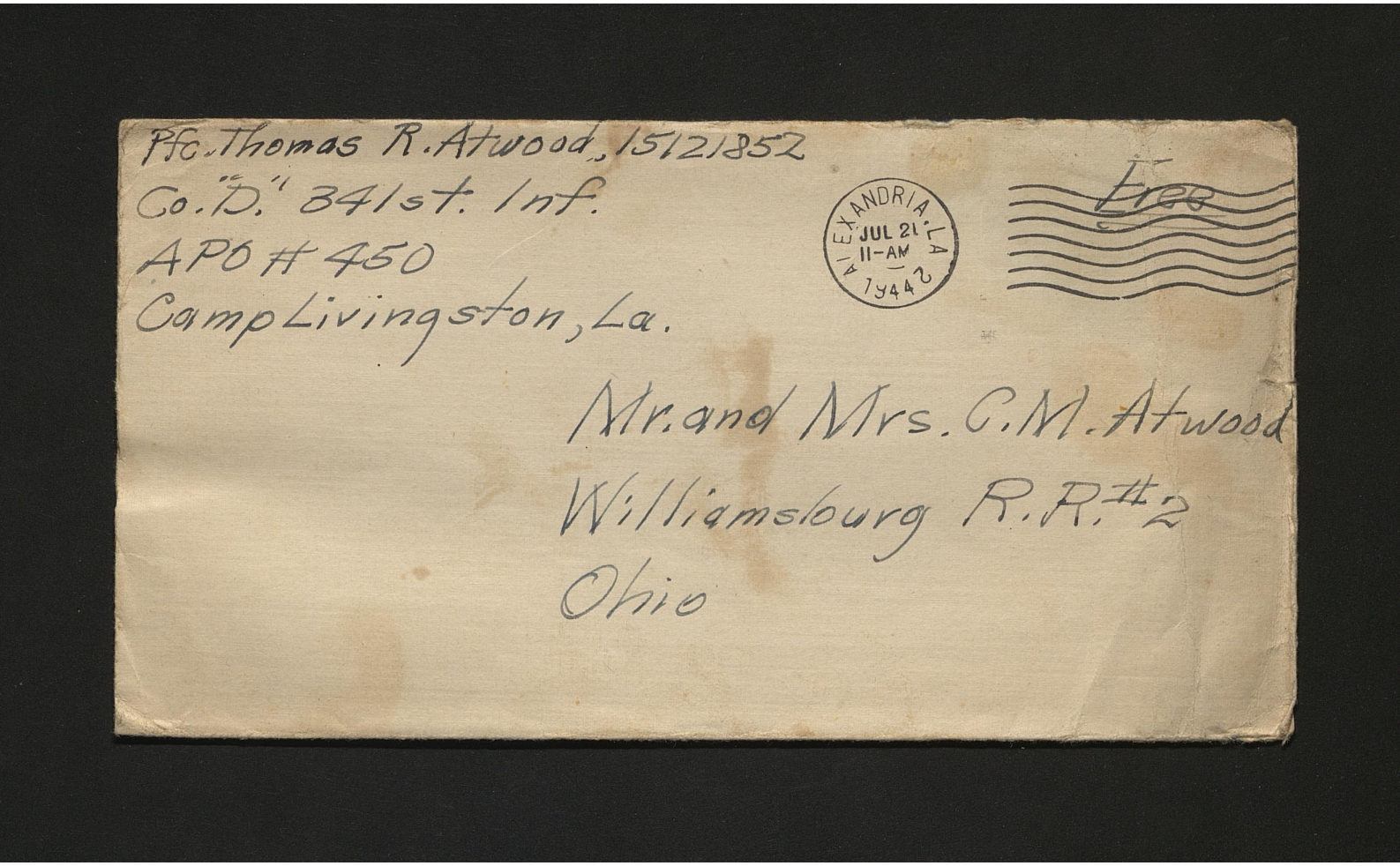
for an educational a commission, if such is the case.

Nathan is still in Akron. He is working in an electrical repair shop - in his father's plant I believe. He claims to be quite active since the equipment is hard to replace nowadays and must be repaired instead. He plans to return to U.S.A. this fall.

I must close now if I intend to get any more letters out this evening.

Yours,

Glenn


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D." 341st. Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
JUL 21
11-AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. # 2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Sat July 22, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

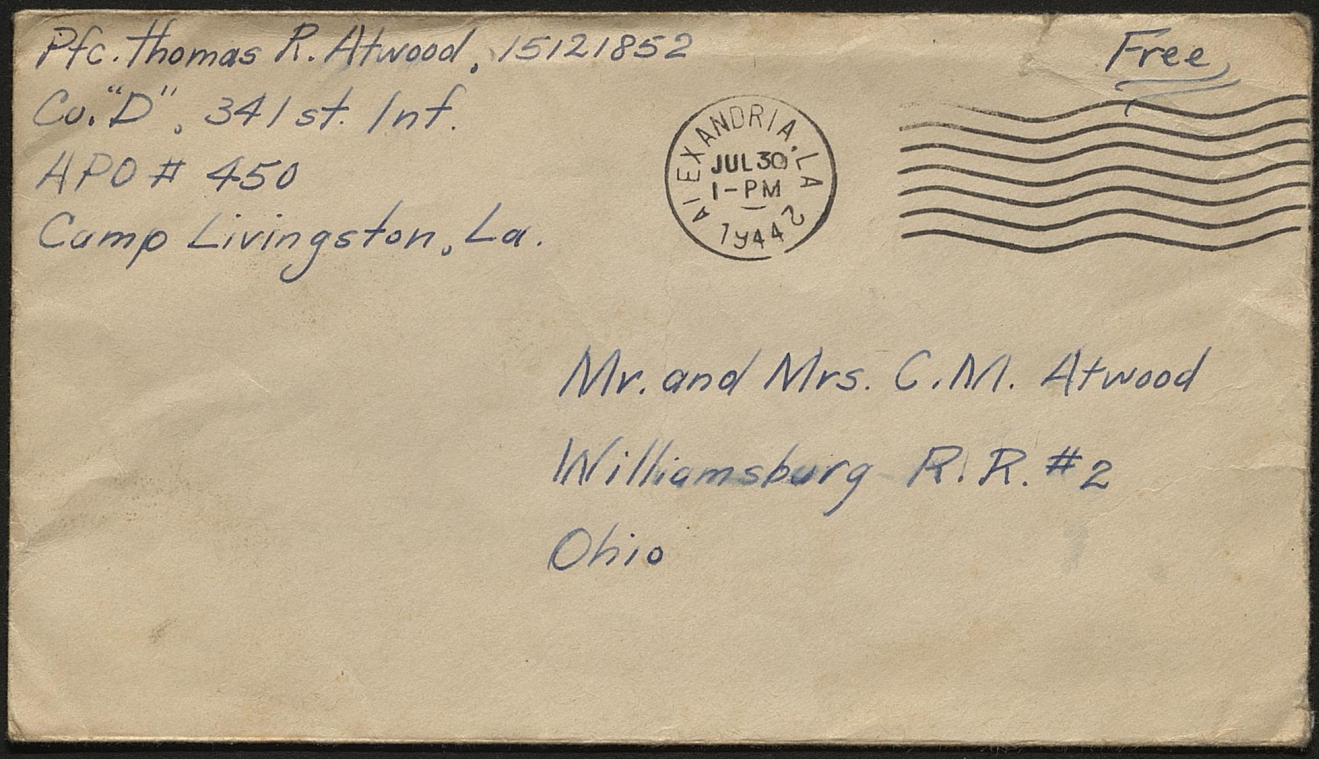
I trust Kenton Keith and Louis spent a pleasant week-end with you. I hope they had more than the customary twenty four hours at home.

After coming back today, I hit the jack pot at mail call. There were four letters, one from home, James Garrett, Amarillo, and M. D. Atwood, respectively. Apparently I have been neglecting N.T. lately as well as the many Clubs. I shall have to get up greater head of steam in my letter writing, & make them less lengthy.

I'll enclose a letter for Bill H., which you should be able to forward to him.

Last night the battalion went out to set up a defensive position. The H. Q. Company dug all their positions and at ~~2400~~ 2100 we had our evening meal. After this "tactical chow" in which there were lights, we went back to our positions and slept until 0300, when breakfast was served. This was another tactical chow. All in all it was not very conducive to heavy sleeping, & are glad to sleep in the barracks tonight. Don't go again tomorrow.

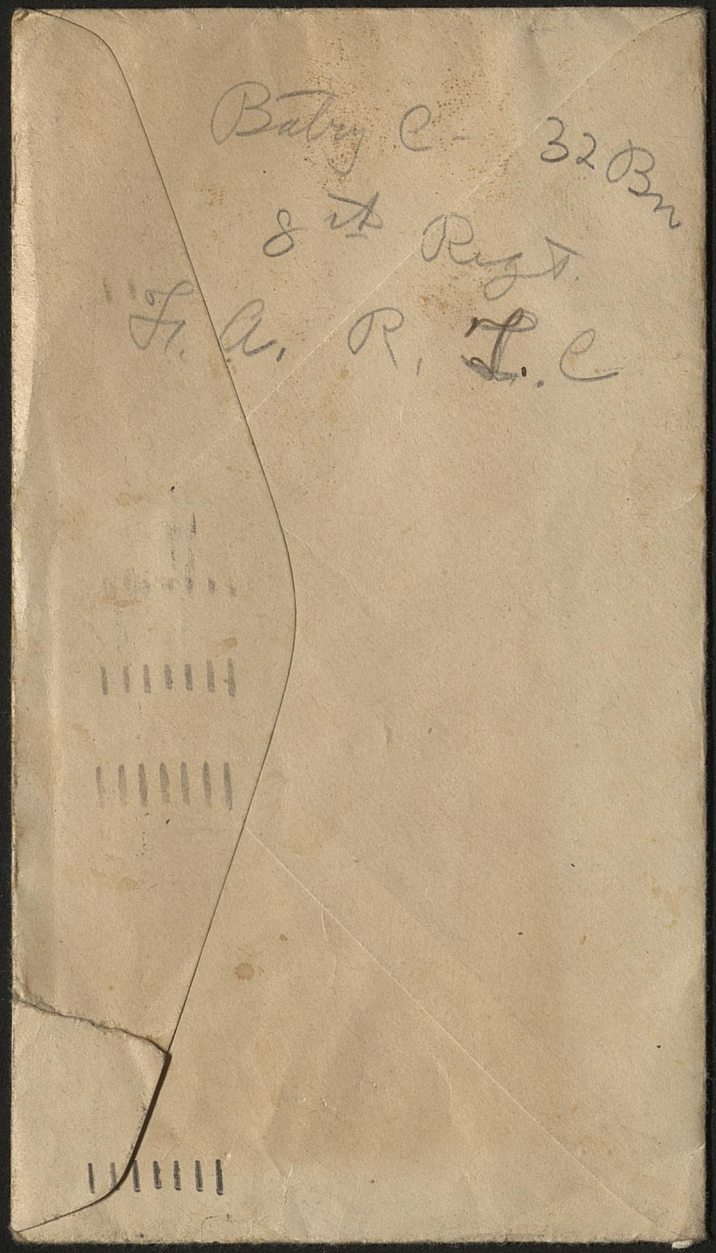
Your son
Thomas


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
JUL 30
1-PM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio


Battry C- 32 Bn
8th Regt.
F. A. R. L. C

UNITED STATES ARMY

Aug. 2, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

At last our maneuvers are underway. Our second day in the field is rapidly nearing an end, with one of those red sunsets which so often are the foretellers of rain. In fact, it has been spitting ominously all afternoon, threatening to dampen all of us and our equipment.

We do not mind a wetting ourselves, nearly so much as to have all our equipment and dry changes soaked. With the heat such as it is, a little shower now and then is rather pleasant, but it

is decidedly no fun to come back to
sleep a night of troubled slumber
between two very soggy wool
blankets.

So far we have been fortunate
enough to keep our equipment quite
dry. The greatest danger to our
equipment came yesterday afternoon
just after we had arrived at
our temporary area (called "base
camp.") A sudden thunderstorm
burst down upon us just as our
squad leader Lebitz and myself
were putting the finishing touches
on our pup tent. The storm
was so violent that our rather
incomplete drainage system

UNITED STATES ARMY

was insufficient to carry off the run-off water. This resulted in a few small insignificant pools of water which were easily scooped out later.

The pup tent, by the way, has met every test to date. It makes a very comfortable home, tho extremely warm one unless one side is lifted for ventillation.

Tomorrow we start a three day problem. During that period there will be little time for the conventional washings, shavings, etc. which have been

daily habits for so long. Undoubtedly in three days I shall come back to camp a decidedly tired, dirty and hairy person.

We are being reminded by the myriads of attacking mosquitoes that night is rapidly approaching. Therefore, I must cut this letter very shortly due to lack of light.

I have been eating heartily on your package. Do not hesitate to send others if the mood strikes you. It was impossible for me to get to the post office & mail the mailing bag. I'm sorry.

Oh yes, the ants think your package is tops, too. We have to take special precautions against the little devils.

Love Tom

Thomas


AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341 st. Inf.
APO #450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
AUG 4
8-PM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg, R. R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Sunday, Aug 6, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Our first field problem ended yesterday with the inevitable conclusion. Since we were "Reds", and on the defensive, the "Blues" overpowered our positions in the final phases of the fighting early Saturday morning. It was very early; in fact, ~~so~~ for they launched a night attack from 3 to 4 A.M. The problem ended about 10:30 that morning to the gratification of everyone involved.

We on the defensive had a relatively soft time. On two occassions we were all caught red-handed ~~in the~~ sleeping at the gun position. Whenever this

occurs, there is often the devil to pay. Once an enemy rifleman found us all asleep and was about to add us ~~[illegible]~~ to the captured list. He was persuaded to withdraw when we pointed it out to him that the red flag was up.

This brings us to the subject of flags and colors and maneuvers. A color-blind person is often in the dark as to the situation, I fear. Anyway, we have a governing force who run the maneuvers called umpires. They are a group of officers and EM who ~~[illegible]~~ can pass anywhere thru the fighting lines, and are identified by their white hat bands. When the umpires judge that one side has fire superiority and can advance, up goes the blue flag.

UNITED STATES ARMY

If, on the other hand, a stalemate exists, the umpires haul up a Red flag. Fortunately, such a situation of this sort existed when the lone rifleman approached ~~up~~ us. I think the flag had blown down for somehow he couldn't see the flag. You see the conditions are not really too realistic and warlike. The umpires base their decision ~~upon~~ the color of the flag upon firepoints points. One MG counts 10 points, each rifleman one point, and so on. (Oh yes, we had a little shower some time ago.)

The volume of good news from both home and abroad certainly gives one's morale a

To be complete, a white flag causes hostilities to cease.

chance to lag. I suspect you are all overjoyed to hear of the latest addition, I should say, prospective addition, to the family. That goes the same for me also. I certainly wish Kenton and Ruth plenty of success in the child-rearing field. I will have to send them a letter tonight, while we have the time and inclination for letter-writing.

Our squad seems to be receiving the greatest percentage of packages of any in the company. We average one or two a day. The trouble arises mainly from the large number of ravenous ants which infest the area. Even when we suspend our opened packages in the trees, they are liable to scale the heights anyway. It is fatal, too, to leave any food about unless it

UNITED STATES ARMY

may be sealed with several thicknesses of airtight cardboard. One thickness is insufficient for the giant variety ants will easily tear through in very little time.

I believe you voiced the desire to know of O.W.A.'s removal from Notre Dame. It was because of a small physical defect, which the navy doctors apparently think serious. Since it is a personal matter, I will only draw a likness to a somewhat similar defect, namely a punctured ear drum~~s~~. Anyway, the medics must have slipped up when they sent him for Notre Dame, for now he is apparently headed for a medical discharge. There is always the chance

that he will go as a seaman to the great lakes, if and when he is called to active duty, instead of getting the discharge. Anyway you look at it, it is an old one. In the mean time Wendell is going to ~~one~~ school until there are further developments.

Naturally I am in ecstasy over the pictures you sent me. Here is one of Amstutz. If things pan out, I should have a few more for you which were taken here at this camp. It may take several days, naturally, and since some of the other boys took them, I shall have to rely on their generosity.

Next week; pardon, this week we run another problem, on the offensive this time.

Here's the daily bulletin, you may be interested to read it. Yours ever

Thomas

Blackhawk Bugle

PUBLISHED DAILY BY HQ 85th INFANTRY DIVISION

FRIDAY 4 AUG. 44

AMERICANS ROLL TOWARD TWIN PORTS OF BREST, ST. NAZAIRE

A mighty tide of U.S. troops and armor swept up Brittany's capital and main rail city of Rennes Friday and rolled on unchecked toward the prize ports of Brest and St. Nazaire along roads littered with the wreckage of enemy tanks and vehicles. The powerful force that brushed past resistance at Rennes pounded on south toward St. Nazaire, the Nazi U-boat base less than 50 miles away, after traveling more than 40 miles in 24 hours in the invasion's swiftest dash.

Radio reports Friday afternoon said that an early sweep to Brest seemed inevitable. The reports added that it appeared the Nazis may fall back to the Seine River to make a stand in defense of France.

Another great force of Americans headed straight west across the Breton peninsula toward Brest. It was considered probable this force already was well past Dinan after breaking across the Rance River, 110 miles east of the second port of France where their fathers landed to fight the first World War.

Behind them, other forces methodically widened the corridor through which these forces were pouring into Brittany from Normandy, pushing 20 miles east of Avranches to Mortain on the road to Paris.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

BLACKHAWKS GO TO WAR

Combat Team 2 early yesterday began its advance northwest from the Division concentration area to drive Red forces from the vicinity of Prairie Creek, where defensive preparations were believed in progress. Contact with the Red force, already identified as CT 1, was expected before noon.

Blue spokesmen were confident of complete victory. Red observers in neutral Peason scoffed at the Blue optimism.

- - - - - - -

The 3rd and 2nd Battalions, 343rd Infantry, were at war yesterday on Leesville Range as the first battalion firing test began under the direction of XXI Corps headquarters. Blue 2nd Battalion, supported by the 911th FA battalion, attacked at dawn with ball ammunition. Victims of the assault were silhouette targets erected in defensive emplacements previously prepared by the Red 3rd Battalion.

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DRIVING REDS SHATTER NAZI VISTULA LINE

Red Army troops shattered the Axis Vistula River line in Poland and smashed 15 miles beyond that last natural defense barrier short of the "holy soil" of Germany. The broad flow of men and tanks flanked burning Warsaw and sped toward German Silesia, only 100 miles away.

The Vistula was crossed 110 miles south of besieged Warsaw on a front nearly 19 miles wide between Koprzywnica and Polaniec. German broadcasts also said that another strong bridgehead was established on the west bank near Warka, only 30 miles southeast of Warsaw. Besides Koprzywnica and Polaniec, the Russians also captured Staszow, 15 miles west of the swift-flowing Vistula.

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BULLETINS

Radio reports Friday afternoon said Allied forces had started shelling the Bonin Islands, 600 miles from Japan.

- - - - - -

Myitkyina, in north Burma, was captured yesterday by Allied forces.

NAZIS PULL BACK BEHIND GREVE RIVER

German troops are pulling back behind the Greve River preparatory to a withdra wal from Florence and advance units of the British Eighth Army already have stabbed within three miles of the historic city, field dispatches said. With the loosening up of German defenses it was believed the enemy would pull into a tight pocket behind the Greve where it flows below the southwestern edge of the city. This would permit an attempt to hold until Nazi troops can be moved through Florence.

On the other end of the Italian front the enemy showed determination to make a desperate stand along the Arno River. On both sides of the besieged city of Pisa strong German patrols of up to 200 men slashed into American positions on the south bank of the river.

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---Chatter: What you hear never sounds half so important as what you overhear.---

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U.S. TROOPS ADVANCE INTO UPPER GUAM

A two-mile advance by American troops on Guam, made against increasing Japanese resistance and over rough, wooded terrain, was reported by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz. This placed the reconquerors of Guam well into the upper third of the island, southernmost of the Marianas group. It gave them control of an important road junction north of a ridge that extended nearly across the island.

The Americans were advancing with the continuing support of carrier-based aircraft . The American line continued anchored on Tumon Bay on the west coast. The eastern end was about a mile and a half south of Sassayan point. Enemy dead, through Aug. 2, totaled 7893 and civilians who sought the protection of American lines numbered 7000. Nimitz reported that the American flag was raised formally over Tinian Island, 125 miles north of Guam.

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—In a camp in the Pacific area a hand lettered sign tacked to the officers' bulletin board reads: "Hats altered to fit any promotion."

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U. S. HALTS 4 JAP ATTACKS

Four more suicidal Japanese counter-attacks against the left flank of American lines in British New Guinea have been repulsed, it was announced Friday. A 1000-ton Japanese freighter was sunk and a destroyer damaged during aerial strikes at Ceram Wednesday, it was announced.

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--BASEBALL--

STANDINGS

(NATIONAL)	Won	Lost	Pct.
St. Louis	71	26	.732
Cincinnati	54	42	.563
Pittsburgh	50	42	.543
Chicago	44	47	.484
New York	46	51	.474
Boston	39	56	.411
Phila	37	55	.402
Brooklyn	38	60	.388

(AMERICAN)	Won	Lost	Pct.
St. Louis	59	42	.584
Boston	52	46	.531
New York	50	46	.521
Cleveland	51	51	.500
Detroit	49	50	.495
Chicago	49	50	.495
Phila	45	56	.446
Wash.	42	56	.429

RESULTS

(NATIONAL)

Chicago 6-7; Brooklyn 2-1.
St. Louis 15; Pittsburgh 2.
(Only games scheduled).

(AMERICAN)

Chicago 3-5; Cleveland 2-1.
(Only games scheduled).

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MOVIE SCHEDULE

--Saturday--

"Blondie Goes Latin"--911 FA, Division Artillery.
"Time Out For Rhythm"--341 Inf. Regt.
"Miss 'V' From Moscow"--Special Troops.
"Show Business" (USO Movie)--342 Inf Regt., 86 Rcn., 332 FA.

--Sunday--

"Blondie Goes Latin"--342 Inf Regt.
"Time Out For Rhythm"--343 Inf Regt.
"Miss 'V' From Moscow"--341 Inf Regt.
"Show Business" (USO Movie)--311 Medics.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

(End)



In front of our house.
Other two guys are friends.

Ametutz is in the middle.

B 5

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 1512
Co. D, 341st. Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
AUG 9
5-PM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Thurs. Aug. 17, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Everyone is elated tonight over the premature ending of our latest field problem. Due to the failure of the 3rd Battalion to stop the "blues" advance we now have an extra day of leisure to spend.

Usually nothing of this sort happens, for the umpires do everything in their power to prevent any unscheduled advances that might interfere with the problem. Since our company was behind the lines, I know nothing of the actual details, but apparently fiction was so apparent that even the hard working umpires could not prevail.

We've changed the location of our base camp to a spot very near the area where the last problem was run.

It appears almost a certainty that we will not run the grueling 6-day division test, and instead the division is to return to camp next Saturday. This choice bit of news has also been well received by all.

I'm very sorry that some of the numerous rains we have been having down here could not be re-routed North to Ohio. Maybe some of them have by now. At least I hope there will be plenty of moisture available to save the crops from total destruction. It seems rather strange; down here where there is plenty of rain, there is no great need, since all I see being raised in quantity is watermelons.

The ~~dev~~ developments at home sound very interesting. I'll write more tomorrow.

Your son
Thomas

Mon. Aug. 21, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The latest King size package arrived intact yesterday. We are still eating away at it tonight. Since we have come in from the field for good now, there will be no need for continuing the stream of food. It certainly has come in very, very handy. but the need has now passed.

I appreciate you trying to purchase a radio for me, but as I suspected, it was impossible. Radios are great about the nearest item and the civilians shopping list these days. Then too, Goldberg finally managed to have his set from home, and much to everyone's satisfaction. It does heavy duty all day for the whole squad.

At present, the company is making the usual preparations for a big inspection. This includes the washing of everyones web equipment, (pack, leggings, belt, etc.) & G.I.ing (scrubbing with soap and water) of all huts, thorough policing of the area, mending broken screens, replacing blown out lightbulbs, and in general having everything imaginable in A-1 top shape.

Tonight I just finished a grueling turn at K.P. In the field I was not bothered by that nuisance, since out there it is much easier; no dishes to clean, and no mess hall to clean. Therfore, all the invalids became permanent K.P.s, while ~~the~~ the more rugged were left to run

about thru the woods and beat carrying the tripods and guns. However, with the inspection near at hand, and the added duties of garrison K.P., are quite in a very busy day.

Thanks again for your many letters. I'm always very glad to receive them. I must close now, since C.Q. waits to close the day room.

Yours ever,

Thomas

Monday Aug. 24, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I hope my long silence ~~twixt~~ has brought you no worrys. The fieldwork simply has been so pressing lately that time for writing has been strictly limited.

Your two packages have both arrived, and in good condition. We shall have to eat your largest and latest packag tonight, since there is another problem to run beginning tomorrow morning. It is often very unhandy to take along packages, since one has to put them in the jeep trailer where they are sometimes inaccessable. You see, the jeeps often leave, and we never see them until after the problem.

Tomorrow, bright and early, we start

another problem. This one is a three day problem, after which we have a four day "break." Following the break, there is a 6-day division test to run, and then - thank the Lord, we go back to camp.

I believe you asked me about the condetion of my feet some time ago. Well, they completely O.K. when I got back to camp, and for about four weks later. Since then, I have developed some other form of much less lethal type athletes foot. Now I think. My feet itch and peel slightly on occasions, but not enough to be troublesome.

I must close now, it is late, and I must get some sleep before 0330 breakfast.

Your son
Thomas

Sat. Aug. 26, '44
Mon. " 28, "

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, this makes my second birthday spent away from home. Maybe it will be the last for some time, if the good news continues to flow in.

It seems that more people than I suspected remember my birthday. Your clever card and package came today and also birthday cards arrived from the Davidson family, Aunt Alice, Anna and Mrs. Challie. Aunt Alice and the Challies came thru with one dollar each. One never refuses ~~pay~~ money just before pay-day at the end of the month.

. . . .

Our company has adopted a new radical policy regarding furloughs. Today about thirty-five of the boys were given furloughs, and I'm looking forward

to getting mine the 7th of Sept.
I suspect that I shall come by way
of Louisville, as I did before so that
I may spend a few days with Kenton
and Ruth. If every thing goes as scheduled,
I should be home the 11th or 12th.
If you should have some information about
Kenton's and Ruth's whereabouts
which would lead to my not taking the Louisville
route, then I would most certainly
come by way of St. Louis. You can inform
me by mail. I will also write
Kenton and Ruth that I intend to
come.

The reason for all these unexpected
furloughs is rather obvious, I suppose.
The division is moving to another campaign.
I shall have more to say when I arrive

on that subject.

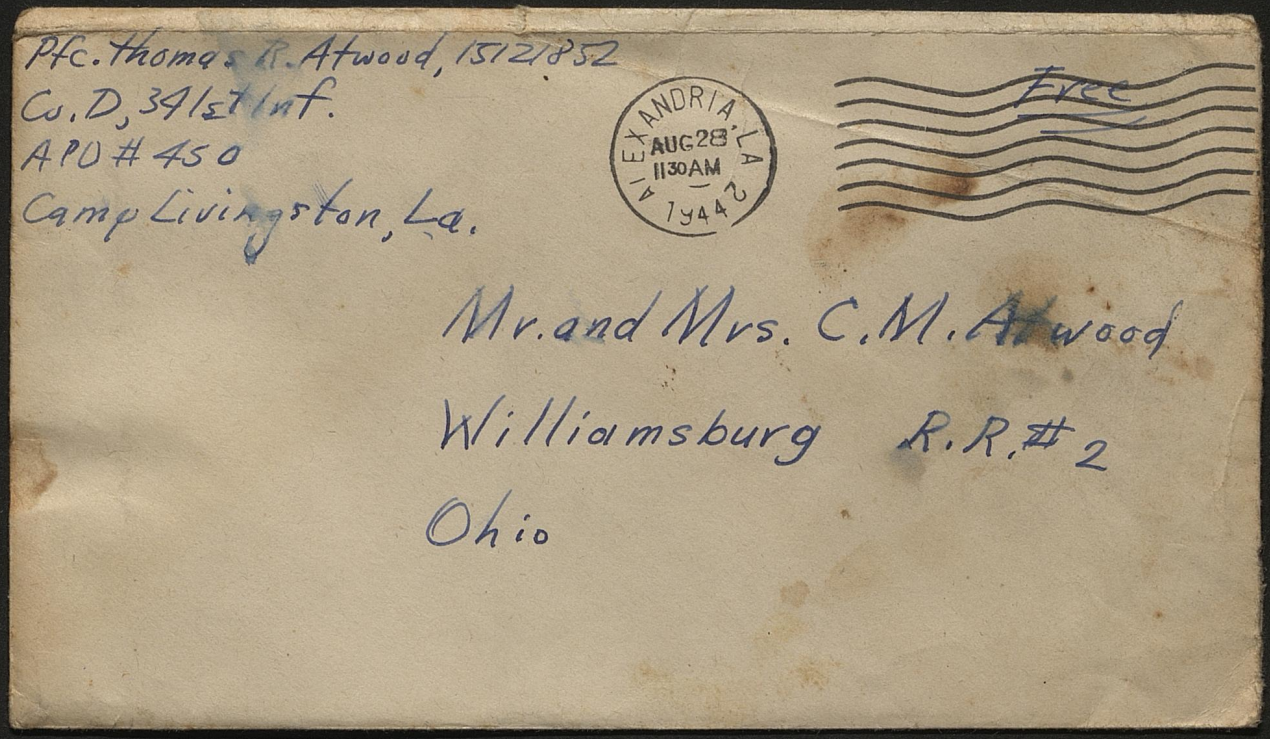
Today, I spent a short session with the dentist, though it was really quite a struggle to get to the chair. It seems that my dental slip was misplaced by one of the dentists who looked at my teeth last Saturday.

When everyone had given the slip up for lost and a new one was filled out, the morning had already gone. This afternoon, about 3:30, they finally got around to my two minor fillings. My teeth are in fair shape, for it took only a few minutes work to patch up my fillings. They had loosened somewhat, especially the ones on my lower molars.

It's raining steadily outside tonight. I suppose a little of the rain would do wonders in Ohio right now.

Yours,

Tom



Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Livingston, La.

ALEXANDRIA, LA
AUG 28
1130AM
1944

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. # 2
Ohio

San. Sept. 3, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I was delighted to get the pictures you took on Keaton and Ruth's visit. Contrary to Mrs. Stotler's opinion, I think they are quite good; especially lifelike, if you know what I mean.

You, Mother, look equally as young as Ruth, and Keaton's picture is a remarkable study in posture. But we love them just the same.

Yes, I have my plastic rimmed glasses, and am now wearing them. They are still difficult to fit on the face. I think it is the fault of the frames, for my face certainly cannot be that far off center. And I suppose Red was able to consult his files for the proper prescriptions for my two eyes, for they seem to be the correct

lenses. If the frames are not especially costly I shall get a new pair while I am home, so she let an expert adjust them to my face.

Yes, it was gratifying to learn that the money order had not been cashed. One can do much with fifteen dollars. I still am at a loss to explain its disappearance. The only solution I can arrive at is that I threw it and one of your letters into the incinerator unknowingly.

It is unfortunate that the doctor has finally forced Mrs. Carr to be in the last stages of T.B. She has doubtless been quite a hazard to the little Carrs. Doubtless little Vera has plenty of contact, too. Naturally one hates to see Mrs. Carr go, for she is really a very good and Christ-like person.

At the same time, it is very bad to have such a person around in her condition, and in more ways than one.

I trust the Lake Allen excursion came off well and to everyone's satisfaction. I forgot whether you planned to take or did take Harry. By the way, how long is he to stay with you? I addressed my last letter to him in care of you. I hope it did not confuse my friend Mr. Burnett.

The furlough date has been changed again. This time the furlough is to be effective the 11th of Sept. But, since the 11th is Mon, and furloughs becoming effective Mon. are made out on Sat., we take off from here on the 9th. Thus it is possible to arrive home before the furlough actually

starts. There is always a mad scramble to have one's furlough begin on a Mon., and of course it is very desirable.

Then too, I have just about changed my mind about the route. The way they Memphis and Louisville was definitely a pain in the rear last time. Several of my buddies will be going by St. Louis; and the company, in addition to being cheaper in the long run (and faster) also has made me consider very strongly going that way. It would be nice (maybe) to have Kenton and Ruth visit Toledo. Naturally I realize they were just home, but maybe it could be arranged.

I've been spending much of my time lately in the pool. I'm actually beginning to like swimming very much. Perhaps practice will make perfect.

Love
Thomas

UNITED STATES ARMY

Tues. Oct. 3. 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

At last the foggy weather has gone, and there is plenty of that good old California Sunshine to go around. It is very welcome after the damp, foggy weather we had at Camp Cooke.

The break in the weather seemed to coincide with our move to the new camp. Camp is about two miles west of the town of San Luis Obispo, and situated in a valley. On all sides there are very high hills, at least two of them deserving to be called mountains. Goldberg and I are determined to climb one or more of the closer ones. Perhaps in time we will have

some choice pictures of the whole area, as the view must be something terrific from the summit.

At Camp Cooke I had the tooth in question extracted. It was a painless operation throughout, with no complication. There is just a big gap left, which is slightly troublesome when I chew the tougher foods. As yet I have not received the traveling money from the government, and it may be some time before they make up their minds about the matter.

Both of your letters to Camp Cooke came thru, although slightly delayed because of our moving about from Camp to camp. I have had no real news from Aunt Alice, and have not as yet made any definite plan to visit her on a set date, although of course we will get together

UNITED STATES ARMY

sometime. I have answered only two letters.

I have been unable to get off as many letters as I would have liked. Tonight it was an outdoor movie we were obliged to attend which allowed quarters. Slowly but surely though, I am determined to write everyone - Eva, Harry, Mrs. Wolfe, Lida, Merill, and others are all high on the list. I suspect they will have to bear with me.

The nights are definitely cool, while the days are of comfortable heat. At present we have to have the oil heaters working to keep the hut comfortable.

I am very sleepy now, and must retire before morning catches up with me.

Yours as ever
Thomas


Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D" 341st Inf.
APO# 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.
SAN LUIS OBISPO
OCT 4
3 PM
1944
CALIF.
Free
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Fri. Oct. 13, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I was nearly swamped by a deluge of mail today. Not only was the volume of mail very welcome but also what was included with the letters. There were two letters from home, one from Kenton, and one from Miss Diddle. In addition to the gift from you, Dad, there was a sizeable check included in Kentons letter. I may have real difficulty cashing it, unless perhaps Aunt Alice can be prevailed upon. Just the same, such unexpected good fortune is always welcome.

We have been firing these little problems the last two days. Today our company supported the rifle companies, and fortunately there was very little running attached to ~~the~~ our duties. We let the riflemen do the running today. Mail

was delivered to us in the field, and I spent a happy half hour reading all my correspondence.

I am glad that you have been able to get all the corn cut before the frost ~~made~~ got a chance to interfere. I suspect it gives you all a great feeling of achievement to have defeated old Jack for once. These next few weeks will certainly be busy, for the pears, corn, potatoes and other crops will be demanding attention all at once.

The regiment moves to Camp Callan, near San Diego next week. It would be nice if you could arrange to send me Cousin Ruth's address, for I believe she is stationed somewhere nearby. I should have copied down all those addresses while I was at home, but for some reason, I omitted them. You might include Bob and Russell Davidson, too.

The mailing address will be the same however, even though we move to another camp. This will probably mean another day's delay in mail delivery, unless their system is extremely

efficient.

The tooth extraction has given me very little trouble for a week now. It is just slightly tender, but I can chew on the right side with comfort, unless we have some tough meat or hard bread of some sort. I wonder how far the other teeth will crowd over.

I have received the refund for my traveling expenses, $59.34 in all. It may not be entirely honest, but with your permission I would like to keep it, even tho I made promises to the contrary. It will be necessary for me to trip about when I have opportunity, (Los Anges and Aunt Alice, etc.) and though it will hardly cost me all that, I would be very close to being stapped if the excess cash were not on hand. Then too, there are vague rumors of more furloughs, but only rumors as yet.

Your son
Thomas

Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO
OCT 14
11 30 AM
1944
CALIF.



Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. # 2
Ohio



Sun. Oct. 22, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

We just arrived by jeep from Camp S.L.O. Camp Callan seems to be a good camp, perhaps better than from where we came. We are practically on the ocean, just a few hundred yards away, and one can see it here from the second floor of the service club.

Sgt. Lebitz, our squad leader, ~~and~~ is beating out one of his rapid ditties on the piano. He plays by ear, and very well, too. I suppose it is an

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USO IS FINANCED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

inherited gift. He also claims to play the accordian by ear.

San Diego is about fifteen miles away, according to reports. L.A. about 100 miles. Last night our convoy spent the night in a bivouac and a few miles outside L.A. Since we were restricted to the area, there was little opportunity for me to contact Aunt Alice. Everyone was rather disgruntled, since from our open field we could see all the bright lights of town. It should be relatively easy for me to get a week end pass next week. I'll visit either Aunt Alice or Ruth M.

I'll write Ruth tonite. She should be slightly surprised to hear from me.

The jeep ride was rather tiresome. We had a few minutes break every hour so that there was chance to stretch the legs, but there was no rest other than this. The one advantage we had was the unlimited view of California scenery. along Route 101 we can see both the mountains and the ocean much of

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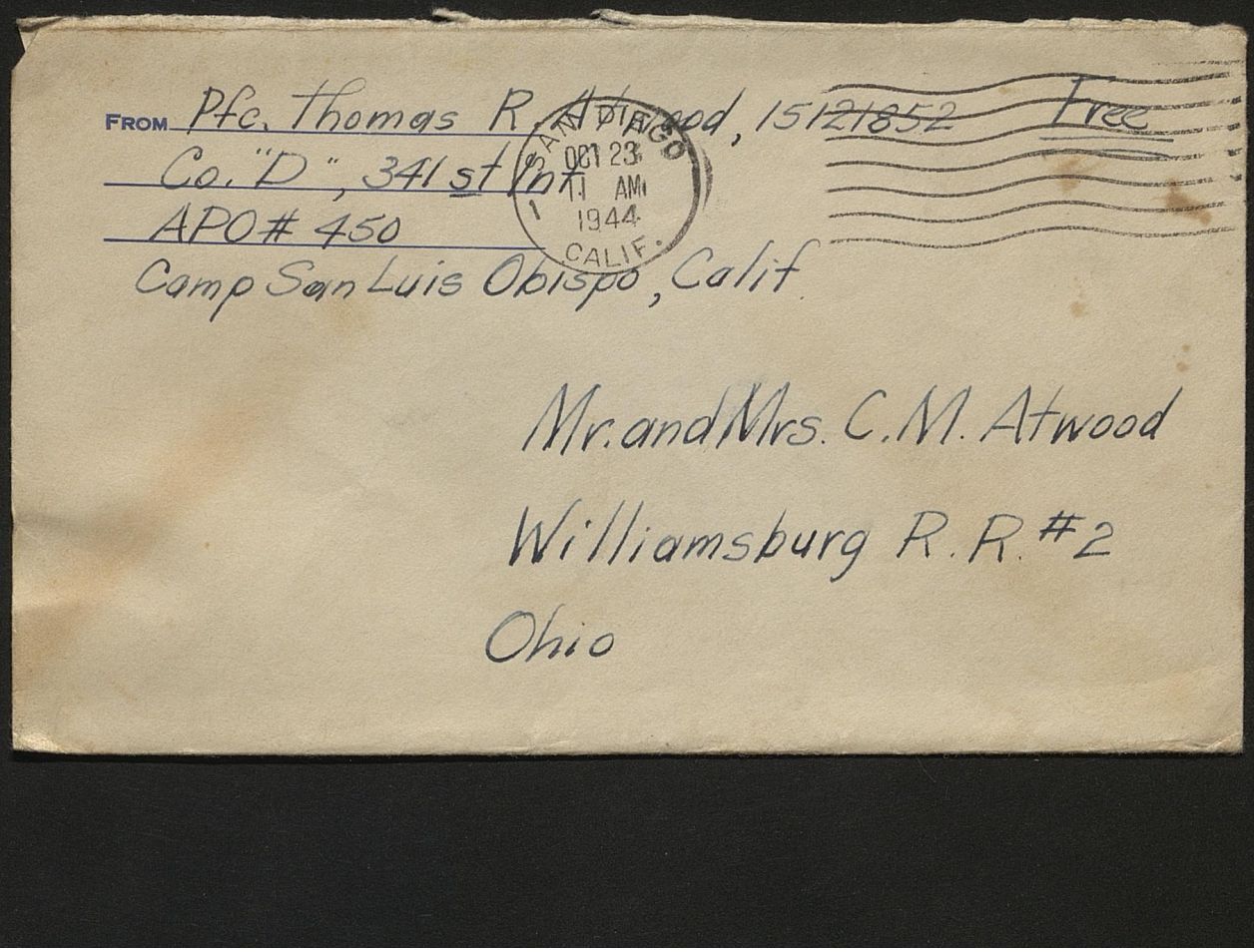
USO IS FINANCED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

the time. I should think now that we are closer to the ocean it will be easy to get in more swimming time.

I'll write more later.

Your son

Thomas


FROM Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN DIEGO
OCT 23
11 AM
1944
CALIF.

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio


NBC
RADIO CITY

C202 NBC RADIO CITY

NBC Studios in Hollywood are located on the corner of Sunset and Vine. The building was opened in 1938, contains eight studios and is designed in the modern "International" style.

Kodachrome by Mike Roberts

"Wesco" Spectratone

COLOR CARD

REPRODUCED FROM NATURAL COLOR PHOTOGRAPH

Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st. Inf.
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Free

ANGELES
OCT 30
2 PM
1944
CALIF

Dear Mother & Dad: Oct. 29, '44

I've just completed a short week end in L.A. I visited Aunt Alice at the Ashrama and spent a pleasant afternoon including their afternoon services. The place is very beautiful. Goldberg & Grieg & Adelson came along but did not accompany me to the Ashrama. More later.

Address

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Mon. Oct. 30, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Maybe my postal card from L.A. has reached you by now. Anyway, Goldberg, Adelson, and myself took the bus to Los Angeles last Saturday. Unfortunately we could not get off any earlier, for they have changed their policy in the orderly room concerning "long" week-end passes. Formerly we would have been able to leave the area late Friday night. This put us into L.A. quite late, about 8:00 P.M., so I did not contact Aunt Alice until the next day.

Adelson has relatives, rather friends of relatives, in town. A Mrs. Levitt works in one of the shoe stores in downtown L.A. Their home is in Hollywood, so Adelson went there

to spend the night, while Goldberg and myself tried the Naval Aid Station in South Hollywood. They have quite an establishment there, 500 beds inside and outside at 50¢ per night, breakfast included. Naturally we were a bit late to get any beds undercover, and so slept out under the stars. Apparently the proprietors have firm faith in California weather, for there are at least 200 beds outside, with their bedding exposed to the elements. I slept remarkably well, and was not chilly at all, even when we arose in the morning. As you can see, the weather is still very mild.

Early the next morning I called Aunt Alice, and got directions for the trip to the Ashrama. The bus service in L.A. is terrible right now, so after about an hour and a half of bus, thumbing and walking, I finally arrived.

The morning service had just ended, but I was just in time for their noon meal. It seems that the finale of a Hindu festival, the "Divine Mother Festival" was in progress, so the crowd at the Ashrama was much larger than the regular Sunday crowd.

Aunt Alice was most pleased to see me, and had everyone primed for my appearance. Everyone I met "had heard so much about you." I was introduced to perhaps 150 people, among them most of the sisters including Sister Daya, Swami's niece Gayatri (three on visit from Boston for a few weeks and conducting the services) Brother Riehl and Brother Hedge were also present. One of Mr. Starrick's brothers played during the afternoon service. I had forgotten him, but apparently he knew me on sight. He was kind enough to

take me down part of the way to the bus station.

Aunt Alice seems to have aged somewhat from my recollection of her of four years ago. Of course, the white habit the Sisters wear makes it rather difficult to judge. It seems that she has had a little ill health recently, a cold or something; perhaps she was just recovering and shows the effects. Anyway, her vigor seems in no way depleted, for she was constantly on the go during the time I was at the Ashram, always flitting from one place to another. She apparently has some control over the purse strings, for she had charge of this in sale of religious items, which occupied her time pretty well.

She of course invited me to return some more opportune time when I would be able to stay longer. The place is very attractive, and I really would like to get back to visit sometime in the future.

Our training here progresses. We have made several more beach landings in the LCVP's. Tomorrow we are to arise at 0330, for a more complex problem which will involve a several mile ride in the LCVP's. During the day the guns will get well coated with salt water, and grease the mist will be very hard to remove. This problem tomorrow is the last preparation we are to have before our 9 day cruise in the ocean.

It is rumored that our period of training here ends next November 20th or thereabouts, and then perhaps we are to report back to Camp Cooke. Then furloughs, we hope.

I'm glad to get the letters from home so regularly. Oh yes, no word from Ruth, even tho it's been some time since I wrote. Apparently our mail does go all the way up north & back again. Camp Elliot is only about ten miles away, so some time this week I must make a visit to San Diego & Camp Elliot also.

With the training getting us up so early,
it is not too advisable to go out ~~the~~ often,
but I will find time to look up Ruth Cafrelung.
There is "C.Q." again.

Love
Thomas


Pvt. Thom... Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN DIEGO
OCT 31
11 AM
1944
CALIF.

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R.#2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Nov. 6, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, today's the day before the great election. I hear that tonight both candidates have given out with their last appeals, but I did not stay around the radio to listen. Instead, several of the boys and I went to the theatre. "Mrs. Parkington", with Garson and Pidgeon was playing tonight - a thoroughly enjoyable picture, though perhaps not academy award material. There are so many excellent performances nowdays being given by the movie actors that it is really very hard to choose ~~that~~ between them for top honors.

I telephoned Ruth M. yesterday. She

has been moved from Camp Elliot to the city of Coronado on North Island, where she works at the Naval Air Station there. North Island is a long narrow peninsula jutting into San Diego bay and it is there that we have been carrying out our amphibious problems. However, we make our landings further west on the peninsula, where it is very narrow. Perhaps the atlas gives you a pretty good view of the city and harbor. Coronado used to be Charlie M.'s old harbor when he was in the Navy back in '98, Ruth tells me. ~~The~~

~~boat boat~~ One has to take the ferry from Diego itself to get to Coronado. They have ferry boats there that remind me very much of the Staten Island ferries. My friend, Sgt. Lebby

also said that they remind him a little of New York.

The Marine barracks are very neat and modern, far superior to ours. Of course, ours could be improved upon greatly if more clearing effort was put out by us boys, but the hardwood floors are much easier to keep clean than our soft pine.

Zebity was anxious to see what my cousin looked like, for some reason, so I introduced them and later all three of us spent the evening in town. It was quite a problem selecting the proper movie theater when we had decided to see a show together. Practically every show in town had been to our G.I. theaters already, but finally we found some obscure train bill that they hadn't bothered to send around to the service men and women.

Ruth seems very well, at if anything, has lost a few pounds. She inquired about the expected additions to the family, and wanted a picture of Kathy and Ruth. I will probably give her one of mine. She expects another furlough soon, sometime during the first week in Dec. Already she is thinking of buying her train ticket and arranging for a reservation on a pullman.

Tomorrow we have another of these beach landings to make, in which the whole battalion takes part. This means another boat ride in the LCVP's. Also we are sure to get large quantities of salt water on the guns. Gunners are will be working for days removing the rust. I must close now, as we must arise at 0330 and it is about 2300 now.

Love
Thomas.

Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D" 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN DIEGO
NOV 8
11 AM
2 1944
CALIF



Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood

Williamsburg R.R. #2

Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Nov. 15, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

For some reason I have not been able to get into the writing mood lately. I forget when I last wrote, but it must have been some time before the election.

I remember your writing about election preparations at home. I suspect Ind. went Republican this year. Both Ruth M. and I are anxious to hear if Jim Walker was elected. Come to think of it, Ohio is a rather peculiar State. We elect a Democratic governor, yet Dewey carried the state, just opposite of the previous conditions.

Your letters had been coming thru in about four days, but for several days now, the mail has ceased to flow. I cannot put forth any reason, for I have ceased trying to

UNITED STATES ARMY

reason out some of the inner workings of our mailing system. By the way, after our boat cruise, the address will be Camp Cooke again, much more easy to write than Camp S.L.O., and more easily transfered to relatives and friends without mistake when they want my address. I have filled out a little change of address card which you should get in a few days, but it would not have been necessary. Just the same, continue with the old address until the change of address card arrives, for appearances, if you please.

The U.S.O. stationery is free for the asking. It is just one of the many advantages the U.S.O. has to offer servicemen and women. It is pretty fine that this organization does all it can to help people in the service.

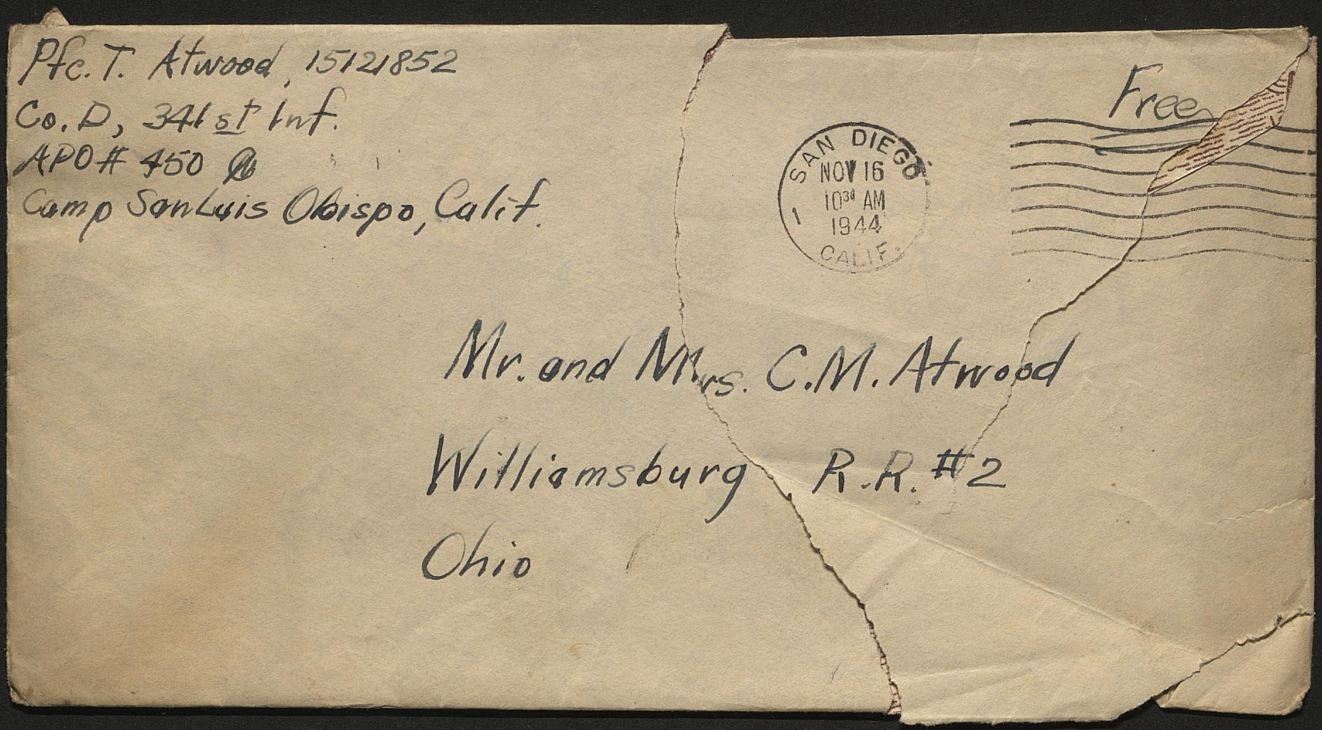
Nothing new has developed on the furlough situation. I know nothing, but at least we can dream, can't we? If I get one this year, it will be in Dec. at the earliest, so, no Thanksgiving at home this year. A Christmas, maybe, if we are very fortunate.

Election day ushered in more than a new office holder or two out here. The rainy season has officially opened, and prematurely, too. It is not a steady downpour, or very hard either, just little spitty squalls that will wet you to the skin, then stop.

We shove off on our little ocean voyage Thurs. During that time we are to be thoroughly familiarized with the Navy and the procedure I guess our duties as passengers on the transport.

Dad is right, I'm the big, black, bruise on the left. He me with short hair and fists in the right hand. Hope you don't find this too hard to believe. The dirt and dust has probably helped to disguise my features.

Love


Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.
SAN DIEGO
NOV 16
10:30 AM
1944
CALIF.
Free
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Fri. Nov. 24, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

This long unbroken silence was unavoidable! We spent six days out in the Pacific on the S. S. "Neville", between San Diego and San Clemente Island, and all the time, no mail service. But instead of going back to San Luis Obispo, we are now at Camp Cooke again. Not at the old company area, but a new one, which seems less desirable at first sight.

Our ocean voyage was full of new experiences. I suppose the most vivid of all was watching the actual bombing and naval gunfire on San Clemente island while we waited

in our LCVP's to form the second wave.

I was fortunate enough to avoid seasickness, mainly because we had excellent weather, I suppose. The main source of griping aboard ship was the lack of room. The bunks are stacked six high with twelve feet between decks, so there is little room for activity of any sort. The best policy was to crawl into our bunks and stay there. During the days that we had fine time, the majority of us went up on deck to read and air ourselves. There was not too much space up there, either, especially when the LCVP's and other landing craft were being hoisted into place.

As I said before, the weather was delightful throughout the cruise, no rain or storms and no seasickness. I was

fortunate that the weather was calm, for the three landings that we made were rough enough as it was. The surf had the nasty habit of drenching both us and our equipment, especially when we struggled to pull off the beach after the problem. The big waves would force the VP's up far on the beach, so that they would only partially float whenever the bigger waves came in. Other VP's would pull them off with tow lines when they were too helpless.

In addition to the crowdedness another source of irritation was the lack of both light and washing water. The soft water supply was strictly limited, so they gave us certain one hour periods to wash and shower. Their showers were very unique. First they would be warm for a few seconds, and then icy cold for minutes at a time.

It would have been much better if the water had remained cold.

Chow on the Neville was just about as good as that we have been getting. If that was a sample of Navy chow, I don't see that there is any better than the Army.

A big inspection followed by retreat has just been announced. I'll have to shorten this letter and put it in the mail. It is unfortunate that I have no air mail stamps. They boys borrowed or bought mine, so now I must buy some more.

I'm sorry about the shot gun. I never should have disassembled it. I guess I'll never let well enough alone. Maybe Papa can get it together in time to account for a few bunnies.

Our Thanksgiving yesterday was spent on the road from Callan to Cooke. The weather is unseasonably cold so that the sharp breeze yesterday morning really

nippedour noses. We've become pretty well settled now.

I'm sorry about raising your hopes for my furlough. It may not materialize at all, now that certain developments have appeard. We'll know more when an if the powers that be tell us.

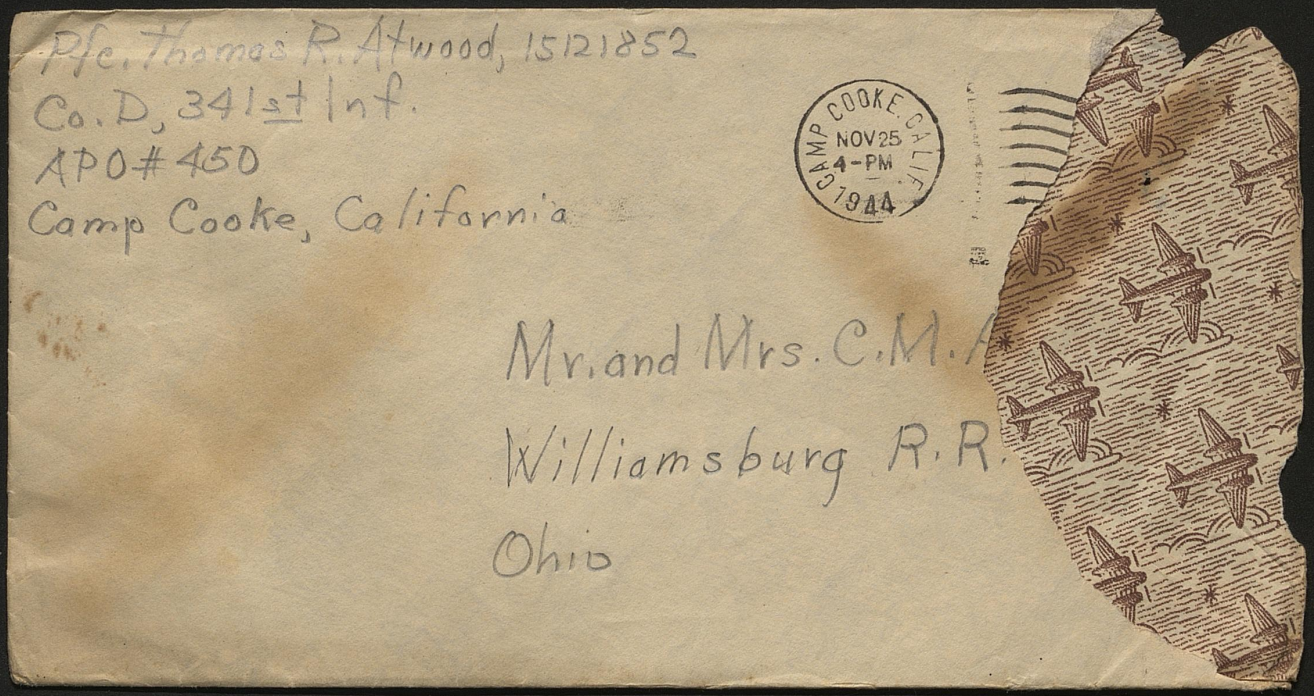
Yes, send those Christmas cards they would be welcome, and the addresses too, if it is not too much bother.

The penciled letter is a result of my having misplace my pen. I think I left it on the Neville.

Your letters come with welcome regularity, I think I got five from you in the Giant Mail Call last Tues after we made our last landing.

I'll have to get ready for the inspection now. More later.

Your son
Thomas


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Cooke, California
CAMP COOKE, CALIF.
NOV 25
4-PM
1944
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. A
Williamsburg R. R.
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Sun. Nov. 26, '44
Tues. Nov. 28, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I've just invested in some new air mail stationery, so I'll initiate it by writing a letter home. The old Parker of John's is being pressed into service. You will probably be able to notice each time I dip the pen. It would really do very well if the rubber sac could be repaired, but I'm afraid the pen is too far gone for that.

. . . . . .

The battalion has just returned from a firing test which extended thru Monday and Tuesday. The problem was an exciting affair with everybody firing live ammunition. It was somewhat

similar to the problem we ran at Camp Livingston, except that we ran this one at a much more leisurely pace and spent a night in the field. Everybody was firing some kind of death dealing material, from mortar shells to rifle grenades.

Much of the time the machine gun section was in the rear of the rifle troop on a high vantage point, where we could see the rifle troops in action and give them overhead fire.

It was just like a grandstand seat from some of the hilltops, watching the rifle companies assaulting a pill box. The pill boxes are simulated, of course, as are all the objectives in problems of this type. Usually a large triangular frame covered

with burlap cover to show a simulated pill box. The riflemen would approach to position then would halt a few hundred yards away when the umpires signaled that they were held up by enemy fire. The mortars and 57 mm guns would then perforate the position. The 57 mm. especially is very accurate. Many shots ~~perforate~~ tore holes thru the burlap repeatedly.

The rifle troops would then advance by fire and movement to about 100 yards of the emplacement. A shock troops grenade was then thrown to burn and blind the occupants with the very thick white smoke found. The flame thrower is brought up next, then a single man bearing a pole charge finishes the job of the pill box. He has a prepared charge of

several pounds of TNT strapped on a wooden pole. We run up to the very emplacement, then drops it in an embraisure or some other suitable spot to completely demolish the interior. It is very interesting to watch the ~~[illegible]~~ clock-like procedure that they are able to ~~[illegible]~~ achieve with a little practice, especially from a hilltop 800 yards to the rear where there is little danger of getting hurt. The final pole charge explosion blew their wooden frames several hundred feet in the air and made a very effective display.

~~[illegible]~~ The expenditure of ammunition was pretty terrifico. Our MG fired 1000 rounds of ammunition alone, and there are 8 guns in our company.

The evening last night was spent in a sleeping bag of my own construction. We needed every bit of the clothing available, too, for the nights are quite cool, maybe about 48°, if I can still estimate temperatures. We wrapped up in two woolen blankets, a shelter half, raincoat, and slept in this cocoon with all the clothes on and an overcoat. I was still half chilly, especially when the heavy dew began forming.

Enough for the big problem. We are all glad it is over. There is nothing new on the furlough situation. However, last Saturday the Colonel lined up the regiment and gave us all a little pep talk. The reason for our putting forth all our best efforts during the various inspections (to be made by various inspecting generals

soon) is to impress these inspecting generals and show them how ready we are to go overseas. Of course, ever since we started this amphibious training, the feeling has been that the division is being prepared for overseas duty. Now that we have finished, it is much stronger than ever. Especially now that the Colonel himself tells us that we are almost ready to go. Just the same, most of us like to be as optimistic as possible, and therefore we judge the Colonel to be just a bit too eager.

A few Men (~~about~~ six) are going on furlough the first of the month, but they are the only ones ~~that~~ announced. These men are to be back the 25th of Dec. Another two regiments of the div. now taking the same training as we have finished will be all through within two months. It

is therefore definite that I'll be around in the U.S. for two months, probably longer. During the next month's everybody will be sweating out furloughs.

So, that is the situation. Everything is very ~~[illegible]~~ indefinite, but it will pay to be optimistic. I hope I haven't given you any unnecessary reason to worry about my future, for ~~[illegible]~~ there is always the chance of something unforseen changing the whole outlook, such as a sudden victory in Europe. We will just have to wait for further developments.

The Church box and the your box of fudge and popcorn balls have arrived. The Church box came with the giant mail call just after we came off the Neville. That was the 22nd. Your welcome box came last Sat., the 25th, I believe.

The popcorn was fresh, and the fudge dehydrated. The train trip really dried it out. If you remember how Kenton's trial piece of fudge looked that he saved for 6 mo. or more several years ago — well that was how it was. Nevertheless, a little ~~[illegible]~~ moistening in the mouth converted it to tasty confection.

I am looking forward to the box and the cards enclosed. It grows closer and closer to Christmas, and I've yet to get my first card off.

I hope the assembled shotgun works by now. I think that ring left from the pile of parts fits on the Springfield rifle — on the strap holding wire which bolts on the stock, rather an unimportant piece.

~~[illegible]~~ The new births at home interest

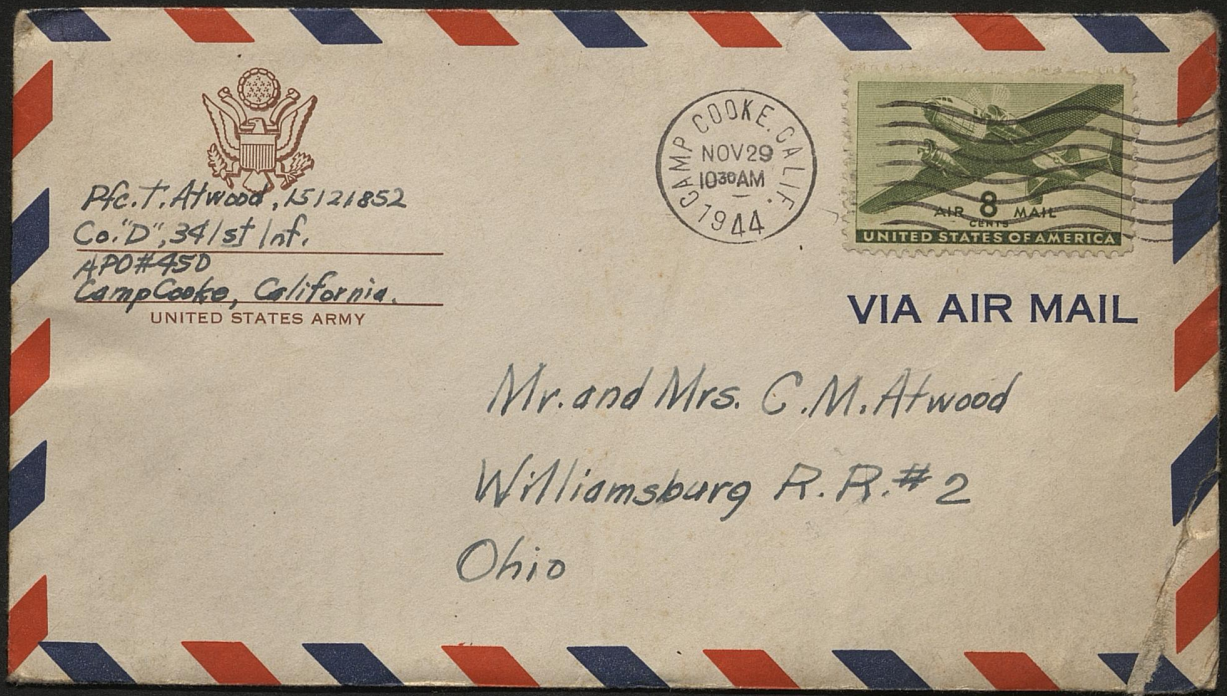
me, naturally. Bert is rearing a big family of girls; maybe he'll be more fortunate next time.

So Harry is visiting now. Give him my regards. His latest batch of papers arrived, so I learned of Jim W.'s defeat a few ~~[illegible]~~ days before your letter came.

I will have to cease writing soon if I expect to write anyone else tonight.

Your son,

Thomas



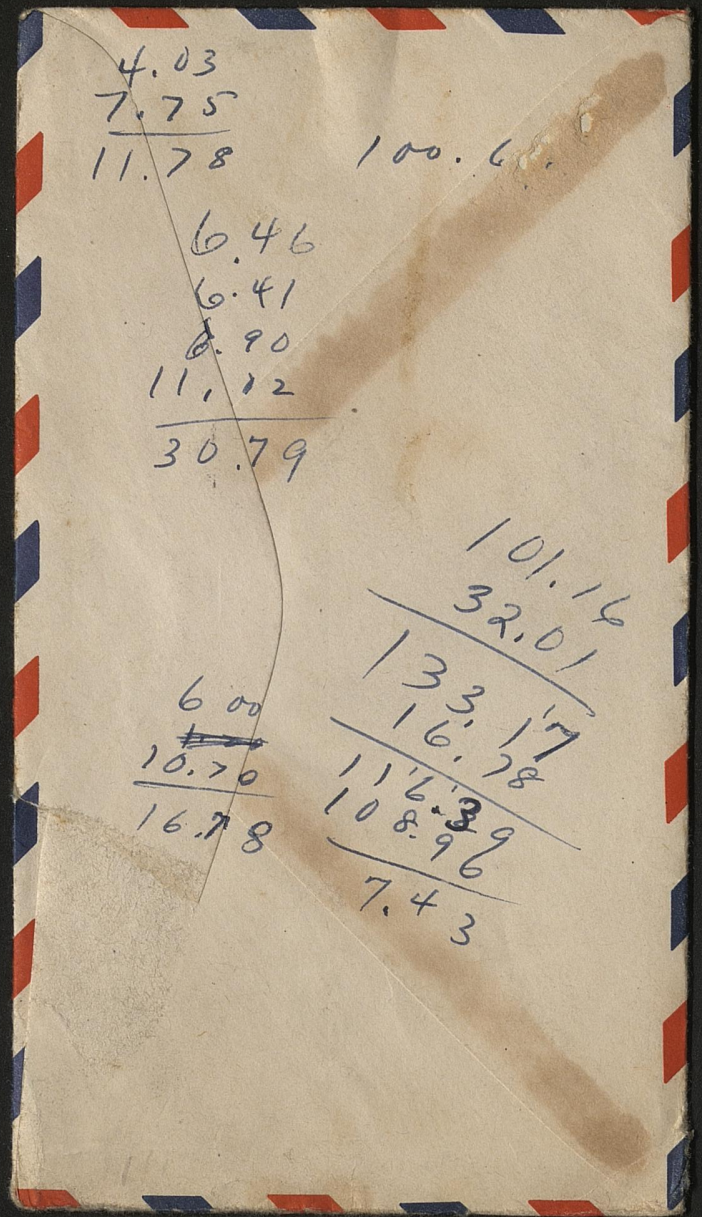
Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO #450
Camp Cooke, California.
UNITED STATES ARMY

CAMP COOKE, CALIF.
NOV 29
10:30 AM
1944

8 CENTS AIR MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio


4.03
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100.6
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30.79
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32.01
133.17
16.38
116.79
108.96
7.43
6.00
10.70
16.78

UNITED STATES ARMY

Sun. Dec. 2, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The package you mentioned as being on the way is still on it - so it will probably arrive when I arrive at Camp San Luis Obispo.

This is something new, the powers that be just got the idea only two days ago. So, if we go to Camp SLO again. The address will be Camp SLO again. I remember it is best to say that, for in the past we often have had mail sent to places we weren't.

The reason for moving is due to the crowded conditions here. The 97th

is also at Cooke now, and two whole divisions just couldn't be accomodated.

We move tomorrow morning, by the way, bright and early as usual. I had suspected that we would move on our own time, but, no.

I just saw "Wilson," a truly great picture in my estimation. Perhaps you have or will see it soon. It's a good deal we get - all the good pictures shows for 15¢.

There are no startling developments since I wrote you last, other than the change in address. Camp SLO is not a staging area, POE or what ever you want to call it, while Camp Cooke is. So

we rather welcome the prospect of leaving Cooke, if only for a short period. Camp SLO is really a much better camp, the town is so convenient, and really not so bad.

Perhaps I told you about the speedy taxi service they have there. At our old company area, the taxi land was 100 yards from our huts, the Packard taxis were always available, and zoomed you into town in five minutes for only 25¢. At SLO we can get good connections by bus and train for LA, Frisco and Santa Barbara.

I hope the Christmas proceeding

are going well at home. I think you mentioned something about them, or if you didn't, they surely are rewarding.

I have just borrowed from Adelaide's pen, for the old Parker gave out, as you may notice. I tried to purchase a rubber sac for it in Santa Maria, but there is apparently a shortage. I shall do better in SLO. I have high hopes of getting the old antique back in order. If so it will be a great triumph.

How is the shot gun? Functioning?

I'll try to get off my Christmas cards and the letters due Eva Mae, Wolfe, Harry, and all the rest of the family.

Yours,
Hans


CAMP COOKE, CALIF.
DEC 4
10 30 AM
1944
AIR 8 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA AIR MAIL
Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 34/st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp Cooke, California
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R # 2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Mon. Dec. 4, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, we made the jigid ride to SLO this morning on schedule and without mishap. These mornings are really uncomfortable, especially when riding in our buzzy jeeps. But by 1100 the sun has made things very pleasant, and by mid afternoon, there is a marked tendency to sweat. As soon as the sun disppears behind the high hills surrounding our valley, the change is almost immediate - cool again.

Everyone is enamored in their delight at being sent back here. We are located in a different area ~~not~~ near the center of camp, practically

under the shadow of good old Cerro Romualdo, the peak I climbed while we were here last.

It is indefinite as to how long we'll be here. The rumors fly thick and fast, but really accomplish very little other than topics of conversation. At present most of us are confident of getting furloughs. One day we aren't, the next we are.

I'm writing from the service club. They have a nice library here, and in addition a cafeteria and soft drink counter with soda fountain attached. The prices are quite decent compared to what civilians have to pay. Perhaps you read the article in the recent Reader's Digest about the P.X.'s. The government

does a real job. It might catch on in the Post-war, but perhaps is too Socialistic to be popular, who knows.

That latest package with the Christmas cards is still on the boat. I'll be looking for it daily.

Yours,
Thomas

Oh yes, you asked me once about our traveling by jeep so much. Well, I suppose it may not be as cheap as some means of transportation, especially for long trips. But when we move, our transportation must go with us, so we go just to fill the gap also. On the cross country trips, everything is shipped by rail.

When we travel by jeep, there is always about half who are left behind, no room. So, they eventually went by train.

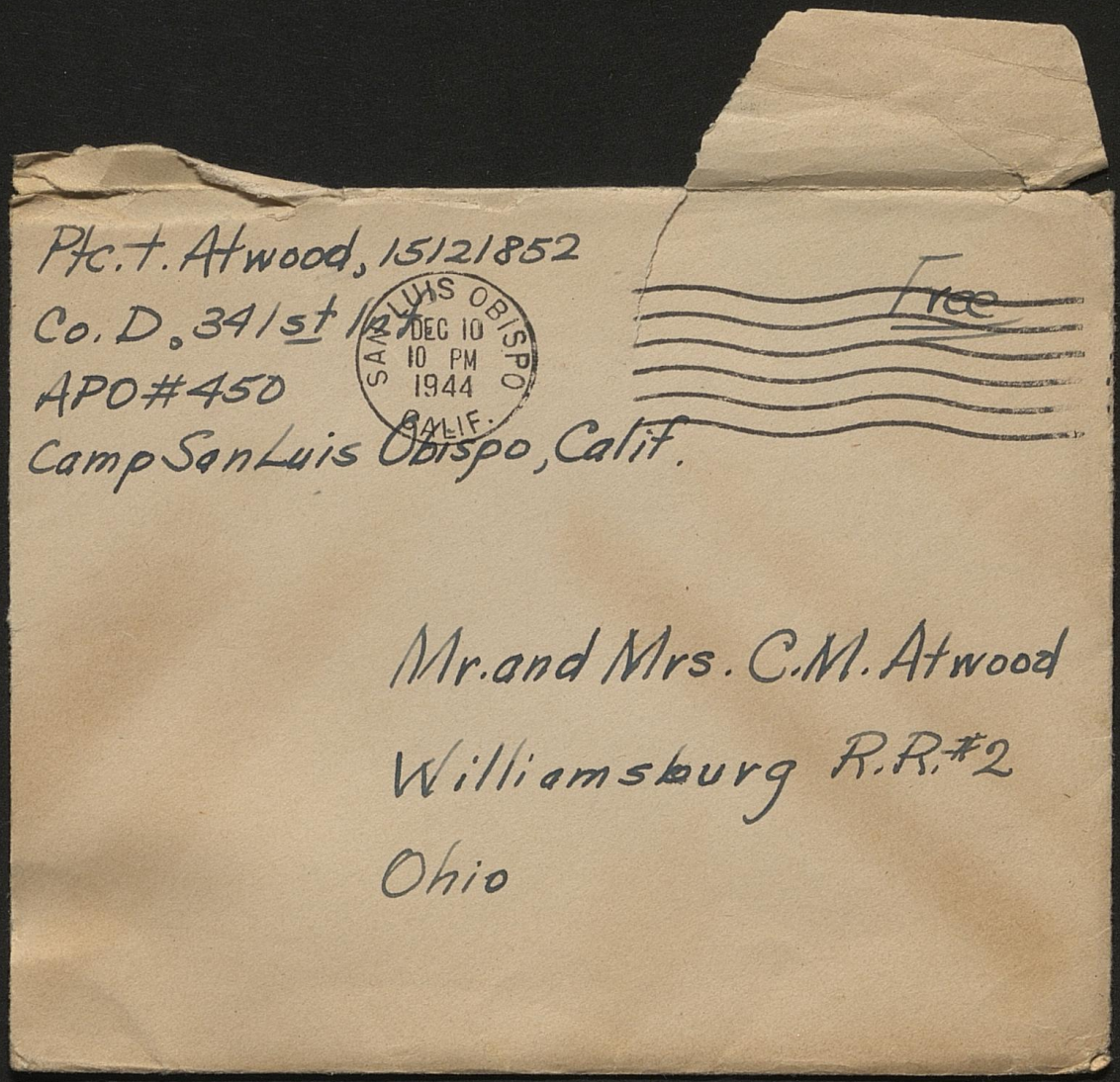

SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEC 4
10 30PM
1944
CALIF.
AIR 8 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #450
UNITED STATES ARMY
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.
VIA AIR MAIL
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R R #2
Ohio

AT CHRISTMAS

32
MADE IN U.S.A.

Greetings
and best wishes
for a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Your son –
Thomas


Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.
SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEC 10
10 PM
1944
CALIF.
Free
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

UNITED STATES ARMY

Wed. Dec. 13, '44

Dear Mother and Dad:

The outfit has been undertaking some extensive marches lately. Last Thursday we had our first twenty-five mile hike in a long time, and today we finished a twelve miler to improve our appetite for lunch.

The twenty-five miles was very strenuous. My feet and legs muscles were sore for two days, as were everyone else's, for we kept up a fast pace. We averaged about 4 mph., I guess.

I received your welcome Christmas package last Sunday, and at present we are still eating away. I've done

away with the fudge and cookies, but the fruit cake is still untouched. I'll let it age a little longer. Since Goldberg is also eating ~~at~~ his packages, there hasn't been much of a concentration on mine. Oh yes, we find it very easy to get candy at the PX's, and if a shortage exists at home, as I'm sure it does, you needn't include the candy bars. But — we can't get the home made fudge and oatmeal cookies, oh no!

The furloughs are coming along regularly now. Thirty more men will leave next Friday and Saturday. These men started their last furloughs the middle of August. I will get my furlough with the next group to leave, perhaps the first of Jan. ~~[illegible]~~ That's providing everything

continues as it is expected. We all feel that everyone will get furloughs now, since they have started this new style. Usually the Army is impartial in this respect and tries to be fair to everyone.

I just received a letter from Aunt Alice. She want me to spend Christmas with her at the Alabama. I will probably find it easy to get a pass. It is best time I saw her again, for it has been over a month now since I was in S. A. last.

It's rumored that we can get a week-end pass Sat. before Christmas ~~last~~ lasting until the next Sunday.

I hope everything goes well at home.

Your son
James


Pfc. T. Atwood 15121852
Co. D. 341 st Inf.
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.
UNITED STATES ARMY
CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEC 14
11 AM
1944
CALIF.
AIR 8 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA AIR MAIL
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Sun. Dec. 18, '44

Dear Walter:

As I told Dad, I've attempted to write everybody in the family a little Christmas message other than the Christmas cards. I always did think they were such impersonal things, more or less substitutes used by persons such as myself, too lazy write a more lengthy greeting.

Aunt Alice has asked me to spend Christmas with her at the Arkana. Maybe if I can get one of those long passes starting next Friday and lasting until Tuesday, I'll be able to spend an entire Christmas week end in Los Angeles. Anyway, I have just written her, accepting. If there are any empty visitors cottages available, it would solve my housing problem, for

I suspect Los Angeles is really overcrowded place now. It will be nice to celebrate with one of the family, anyway.

Just the same I would much rather be on the way home, to spend an old fashioned Christmas in Laredo. We should be able to celebrate just the same if my expected furlough materializes.

I've been hearing from the various friends and relatives lately. Gladys Moore and Harry W. have sent me Christmas greetings. Kenton and Ruth came thru with a Christmas card of very rare variety that Arthur A. sends out - the kind with Alexander Hamilton peeping thru the port-hole. Just the same very acceptable.

I sent the Christmas cactus blossom along to Alice, so she could get a glimpse at the first blossom also. Thanks ramuch for it Mother, it was nice to get a memento like it from home.

Merry Christmas, Mother. Yours ever, Howard

Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121862
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEC 18
3 PM
1944
CALIF.



Via Air Mail

Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. # 2
Ohio



Mon, Dec. 25, 44

Dear Mother and Dad:

I was successful in getting that hoped-for pass - and have just finished a very pleasant visit with Aunt Alice. They took very good care of me at the Abrams; plenty of food, a room of my own, and the fellowship all together made it a very enjoyable Christmas.

Aunt Alice is in very good health and spirits, much more so than when I visited there last. Of course, there was plenty of activity at

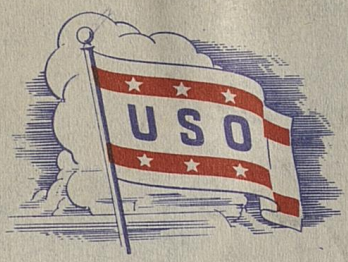
THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE SALVATION ARMY • THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELERS AID ASSOCIATION

USO IS FINANCED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

Oshrond, with several special services being held.

The attendance at these was not especially large, but I suppose as well as could be expected due to the war, lack of gasoline, etc.

Last night, we spent a pleasant time opening the various packages. Sister Daya was kind enough to have selected some presents for me, among these were an address book, a tie, socks, a shaving set, etc. This was totally unexpected, and together with your package for Aunt Alice, we had quite a time with all the various bundles.



I'm at one of the U.S.O.'s in Hollywood now, using some of their writing equipment, as you can see. I did have hopes of getting tickets for a NBC broadcast, but, unfortunately none are available, that is, no broadcasts ~~have~~ have tickets available and go on the air before the time that I must leave. The train leaves at 6:30 tonight, but as I have a coach assignment and ticket, there is no reason for worry that I won't catch the train or get a seat.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE SALVATION ARMY • THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELERS AID ASSOCIATION

USO IS FINANCED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

It turned out that I was rather lucky to get a week end pass, even tho it was Christmas, and a time when you might think the authorities would be more inclined to give the boys a chance to get away and celebrate. A new order came down last Thurs. requiring 50% of the entire division to remain in camp at all times. There is loud griping about this from all quarters, but apparently this new ruling is here to stay for some time. Of course there is always the chance it was made to ease the holiday transportation problem.



the weather still remains very un-Christmas like. Today is a good example. Right now the bright sunlight make you squint, and the streets are almost uncomfortably warm, maybe about 78° or so. But the nights get very cool. The trouble is, that lately at camp we also get a shower or two in addition to the cool air. Slept at camp when it was sprinkling. I hope that the rain doesn't appear to greet me when I arrive there.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE SALVATION ARMY • THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELERS AID ASSOCIATION

USO IS FINANCED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

early this morning.

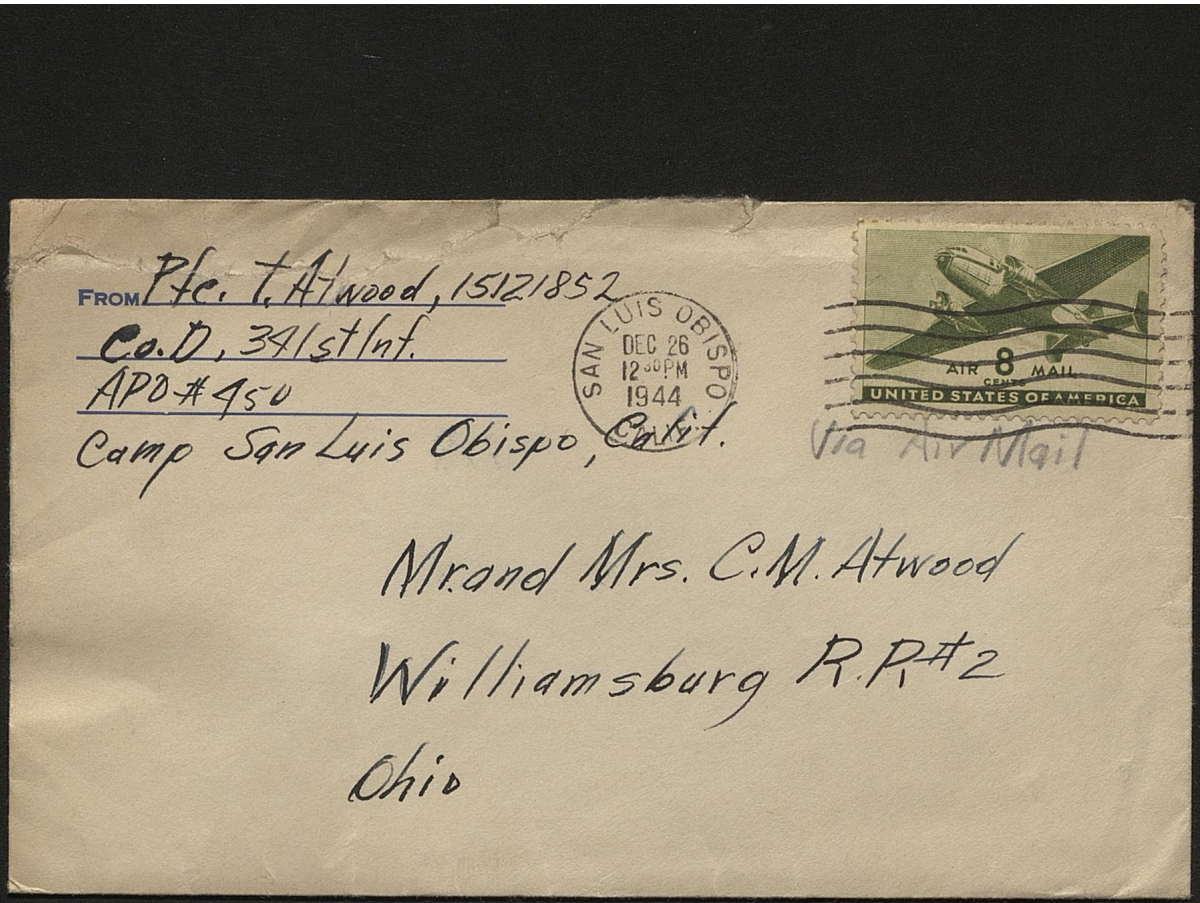
I hope this Christmas has been pleasant for all of you at home. I thought of you often, and how this is the first Christmas we had to spend separated by 2000 miles. Just the same, if we are together in spirit, nothing really matters.

Maybe the cold wave has abated by now - I hope so anyway.

Happy New Year!

Your son

Thomas



FROM Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEC 26
12 30 PM
1944

8 CENTS AIR MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Via Air Mail

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Wed. Jan. 3, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, here goes my first letter of this new year, and fittingly, right home. I trust the new year's celebration was up to par back in Lerado. I could use a mug of nog right now, myself, for it gets just a little nippy in the evenings. I suppose warming liquids are a vital necessity at home right now, unless your cold spell has been pleasantly interrupted.

My New Year's celebration was an extremely mild one. Sgt. Lebitz

and myself spent the entire evening in our hut, nibbling on Cheezits and ice cream. Previously I had finished out the year with a session at K.P. A day in the kitchen usually is a little grueling, so we were content to allow midnight to look out for itself. The new year arrived while I was sound asleep between the covers, all unaware.

The last two days have been crowded with various night problems and firing tests. The planners of our schedules make sure we haven't much time to relax.

There is still no new word on furloughs. As soon as anything develops,

I'll forward the information, and then you'll know whether or not I'll be Ohio bound. There are plenty of rumors, of course, but nothing is certain, as is always the case.

Your New Year's package arrived in good condition. The fudge, and popcorn (some cream.) keep is very good condition, due to the dehydration process they go thru crossing the mountains. Thanks ever so much for the sample of homecooking. Anytime you feel like obliging is alright with me.

I trust the cold wave has slackened somewhat. That combination ice, water and snow sounds very dangerous and disagreeable to me.

I remember telling Sgt. Lebitz about the opera creams, and how you make them dad. When I came to the marble slab treatment he balked at trying them when I offered him a piece to sample, so they were all consumed by myself before he decided to give them a trial.

That new Ross family must be of rugged stock. I can't picture myself descending into the water just after four inches of ice had been broken thru with an axe. I would be afraid of becoming trapped down there under the ice. No use of going to heaven by such a direct route ~~o~~ drowning during baptism.

Give my New Year's greetings to the community.

Your son
Thomas



Pfc. T. Atwood 15121852
Co. D, 341 st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp ~~San Luis~~ Obispo, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Mon. Jan. 8, 45

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, the rumors are flying thick and fast here tonight. No maneuvers, no furloughs, P.O.E., overseas, etc. The furlough situation does look hopeless now, but such things are always subject to change.

For instance the division may move from the west coast to the east coast and on the way there men due furloughs may get them then. Something in the nature of what happened when we moved to California, delay in route they call it. However, nothing is definite, we'll just have to wait and see. All we have been told is that furloughs have been canceled.

I hope the disappointment has not been too great. I see now that I should

not have been so optimistic in expecting a furlough this month. It seemed very likely last month, tho, when everyone else was getting theirs.

The weather sounds quite wild and wooly. I should think the animals are rather hard hit. Especially the cows - with those open holes on the west side of the cow shed.

It makes my mouth water to hear you make mention of the winter sports, sledding, ice skating etc. I really don't see how Bobb, Hank made headway on those skates. I could never get them securely attached to my feet. Besides, the ankles always wobbled.

As I threatened, I tried the

winter swimming for the first time at Piano Beach last Sunday. although it was comfortable enough lying on the beach, the water itself was deathly cold, rather difficult to get accustomed to. I think the heated pool here at camp will do much better. Besides being more comfortable, one can swim without the breakers interrupting one's progress. The water is also much deeper, up to ten feet at the deepest end.

I believe I wrote Mrs. Wolfe a new years letter some time ago. Maybe it is waiting for her in the mail box.

Your son,
Thomas

Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO
JAN 9
12 30 PM
1945
CALIF.



Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Jan. 21, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

The activity about camp, and especially in the company area, has been increasing by leaps and bounds these last few days. So it is best to avoid being in the company area whenever possible - and most important, is not to be available for details on the weekend. This far, I have been lucky enough to spend this weekend in my own manner. Right now, Jack, Seymore and myself are lounging in the service club. I'm trying to catch up with my ever - behind-schedule correspondence. Maybe I'll get several letters written this afternoon.

The cafeteria here in the service club

is carrying out its new policy of the "all you can carry away on your tray" for 25¢ dinners. This value attracts hordes of rapacious G.I.'s to the scene. At present the Service Clubs has not yet reached capacity, but before long the cafeteria will open and the hungry mob will begin forming a three-abreast ~~mat~~ line. Of course I will try my best to string along with the rest of crowd.

As I said the activity increases here. Mainly this is due to our getting our new combat equipment. In a few days we should be getting aboard the train. It is then that censorship starts, so naturally it will be impossible to give any particulars,

which is all for the best. We are all hoping that P.O.E. will be in New York. The Brooklyn boys especially - also the numerous Penna. G.I.'s. (The 26th was originally an all Pennsylvania division; it would be the closest to home most of them have been in a long time.)

I got a letter from Kenton and Ruth several days ago. He gave me all the news in and around Louisville. It seems the girder Corporation is now the Boomer Corporation.

The weather continues very healthful and dry - thank goodness! Only the evenings and early mornings are a little nippy. It is still very invigorating - the area around

San Luis Obispo is rumored to have to all round ideal weather conditions for man's development, according to the meteorologists, anyway.

The ten dollars arrived safely, thank you - I can probably spend it, but if I get any sort of furlough from P.O.E., I'm sure it will be most welcome.

I wonder if you have still saved one of Grandpa's old single edged razors. I just had a brainstorm that maybe razor blades would be a little scarce to where we're going. Anyway, I'd like to experiment, so would it be too much trouble to mail it parcel post.

Be on the lookout for the Khaki duffel bag. It contains a few civilian clothes and my shoes, also some books I think would be to bulky. (I'll mail it to you)

air mail

Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO
JAN 21
10 PM
1945
CALIF.



Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. # 2
Ohio

CINCINNATI, OHIO
JAN 23
12 PM
1945
POST OFFICE ANNEX
4
AIR MAIL

Wed. Jan. 24, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

The Colonel was feeling in a good mood today, so 50% of the company was given a twenty four hour pass. I didn't waste much time deciding whether or not to take the pass, so here I am in the U.S.O. Now that the are nearing the end of our stay in California, it may become more common practice to give the boys a little more free time.

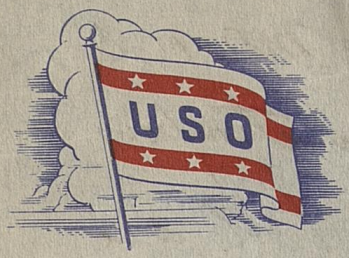
I find the U.S.O. about the most attractive place to spend my time, especially on a twenty four hour pass when time limits my radius of

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE SALVATION ARMY • THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELERS AID ASSOCIATION

USO IS FINANCED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

travel. There is practically an unlimited number of things offered to make the time pass pleasantly. They have an adequate soda fountain, several pianos, a large auditorium being used now to show a motion picture, three ping pong tables, a recording room, (records made and played), a library, reading room, and writing room, where I am at present. Their materials may not always be the best, as you can easily tell by examining the results of my work with this steel pointed pen. But after all, that is my fault for forgetting my pen.

I sent the furlough bag off by



mail this morning. It should show up some time in two or three weeks.

We are allowed no civilian clothes whatsoever, except, that is, for a few extra shorts and sox. I will have plenty of these. It is all for the best, too, for any excess equipment is just that much more weight to carry around.

We're getting our new equipment issued now. The most spectacular item is the new combat boots. We have two pair. At present we are breaking them in, and at all times the pants must

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be tucked in. It gives us more or less the general appearance of paratroopers or airborne infantry. The boots are rather short, coming up less than halfway to the knees. And believe it or not, they are quite comfortable.

I will close now.

Yours,
Thomas

FROM Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO CALIF. JAN 25 12 30 PM 1945



Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Jan 28, 1945

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, here I am again, at the typewriter, and I hope I haven't forgotten everything I ever learned about operating the things. It looks as if the ribbon on this one has seen better days, I'll bet that it hasn't been changed since the last war. I've just discovered why the upper part of the lines above was so indistict. It so happened that by some manner of means, the upper part of the ribbon became folded and intangled. I've switched to the lower part of the ribbon now, by pushing a handy little lever. Better, don't you think?

I'm rather ashamed to have been neglecting you by my failure to write home more often. It's clearly my fault, just one of my weaknesses, I guess. I'll make an attempt in the futare to be more punctual. My, I can certainly notice how far I've slipped in my ability to type fast and accurately. These type* writers are to be found in practically in every service club and U.S.O. in the coutry. For ten cents and a push of the lever, one gets complete use of one of these beat up machines for a half hour period. We G.I.'s give themrough usage.

There is still nothing very definite about the time we leave here or destination, naturally, but I expect to be leaving for New York next weekat the latest. As I have said before, censorship is to ~~be~~

begin as soon as we get abouard the train, so such guesses and predictions as the previous one will soon be a thing of the past. Maybe I'll be hard up for material to write about . One of the latest rumors has it that upon arrival at New York, the division will be given three day passes. If so, I'll most certainly take off for Ohio, and spend a day or so home. Colonel Hunt could hardly blame me. Probably all he would do would be to arrange a courts-martial.

I have had some bad luck with my personal property again. A week after I had made use of one of Aunt Alice's very nice Christmas presents, an attractive red address book, and filled in all the addresses, I promptly lost it. This is very inconvenient, naturally, since I did away with all other traces of some of the more rarely used addresses. Also some telephone numbers are now lost to the limbo. Anyway, I now have a little black book to take it's place, and am going about a reconstrruction. Among the lost addresswere- was Eva S.'s . This brings us to the topic of Eva, which we must discuss in great lenghth.

I might say to start with that I'm relieved to hear of Eva's new interest. You see, I always admired Eva for the fine girl that she was, but apparant not anywhere near the degree of affection she had forme. This is according to your reports , more than from my personal observation , since I'

I'm pretty poor at that kind of observation. Now that Eva had another interest, especially one close at hand where she can work on him with effect, I'm sure that everything will work out much better. I agree with you that Eva is a very fine girl, but I cant help it if she isn't what I consider to be my type. I think I'll write her a letter something of this nature to see what the results will be. The last one I wrote had to be sent to Marathon, due to my losing the address book. I hope this doesn't sound like sour grapes, because that's the thought furtherest from my mind.

As you say, I'm probably making a big mistake on the straight razor deal. But I think I'll try it at least. Thanks for going to all that trouble for me. It might possibly materialize that razor blades will be scarce as the devil where I expect to go. The present rage in camp now are these huge hunting knives that can be bought at the local military stores in town. I do not think too much of carrying about on the belt one of these six inch daggers, but one can never tell when one might come in handy. I think I would rather rely on my 45 for close combat of that nature. Did I tell you that I shot expert with my pistol the last time I fired to the range? So far I have not succomed to the urge to throw my money away on one of these imported Mex. knives. I think I will let the trench knife suffice for my purposes, a knife well

suited to the purpose, issued by tha army.

Well, enough of these gory details. Let me hear from you all soon, and all the latest gossip, naturally.

I just re-read your letter. The reports about the local boys and what they were doing overseas was most interesting. It was quite a coincidence that Muchmore should happen along in time to aid another wounded Ohio boy.

Mr. Evans and Mr. Larson have both answered my Christmas cards with very nice letters. Naturally I'll have to get some of them them in the future. Mr. Evans, I think has a hobby of writing all the Owensville graduates. He had almost unlimited information about each one's whereabouts, and mentioned of his writing several V-mail letters. With Mr. Evans, principal job and other civic duties in Batavia, He must be one busy man.

Your Son
Thomas

106th Infantry Sent to 'Quiet' Front Took Shock of Nazi Breakthrough

By The Associated Press.

WITH THE 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION, in Belgium, Jan. 21 (AP)—It was a "quiet" sector they handed the 106th, fresh to the front and rarin' to go, on Dec. 11.

The quiet ended in a shattering eruption of fire and steel five days later; in another two days two regiments and supporting artillery and armor of the Golden Lion Division had been wiped out.

In those two days the men of the two regiments were engulfed by the overwhelming weight of Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt's breakthrough spearhead. They went down fighting.

Only a handful—fewer than 300—came back from the 422d and 423d Regiments. They pitched in and helped the remaining regiment, the 424th, to make gallant delaying stands before and behind St. Vith.

Up to now censorship forbade transmission of these details.

[Secretary of War Henry Stimson announced that the 106th had suffered 8,663 casualties in the German offensive, including 416 killed and 1,246 wounded. He said most of the division's 7,001 missing were presumed to be prisoners.]

The story of the 106th's disaster started in the foggy dawn on Dec. 16 as the men occupied positions in and around the Schnee Eifel, a

Continued on Page 5, Column 3

106th Infantry Sent to 'Quiet' Front Took Shock of Nazi Breakthrough

Continued From Page 1

rocky, wooded ridge ten miles long and two miles wide astride the Siegfried Line. The division was spread pitifully thin along a twenty-seven mile front.

Maneuver Problem Duplicated

Ironically, the 106th was in an almost identical defensive position to that it had held during Tennessee maneuvers in March, 1944, when it did so well that the referees had to call time.

The attack started at 5:50 A. M. with a tremendous artillery barrage against the 106th line, which curved northward from the center of the Schnee Eifel in a sector held by the Fourteenth Cavalry Group, an armored outfit attached to the infantry. Then the barrage moved across a field artillery battalion, also attached. By 6:20 A. M. more than 100 rounds had hit squarely among the artillerymen.

The Germans meanwhile switched on dozens of searchlights to introduce a ghostly note. Their idea was that the lights would bounce off the low clouds and light up the American positions while the Germans advanced unseen through the shadows. It failed to work, however.

Five minutes after the shelling of our lines had started, the Germans opened up against St. Vith. The civilians, most of whom had pretended to be friendly but actually were pro-Nazi, all were in their cellars when the firing started. They popped out again promptly after the last shell had fallen at 2 P. M. The Americans later captured a radio receiver by which the Germans had notified the civilians of the impending shelling.

One Forced to Retreat

The Germans then turned their guns on the 422d and 423d Regiments. Infantry and tank assaults followed. By daybreak of Dec. 17 the Germans had thrown two divisions into this part of the front and by mid-morning enemy columns were swarming around the Schnee Eifel. They swamped the 422d and 423d Regiments and the 424th was forced to withdraw.

Until radio contact was lost, the two regiments continued to send back reports of the fighting. They were routine in nature but they added up to disaster. There was no sign, however, that the men realized this.

At 3:35 P. M. on Dec. 18 the radio sputtered that all units of the two regiments needed ammunition, food and water. Parachuting of supplies was out because of the fog.

The last message came from the 422d at 4 P. M. that day and from the 423d at 6 P. M. They were addressed to Lieut. Col. Earle B. Williams of Louisville, Ky., division signals officer, and signed by Sergeants in charge of the regimental radio teams.

Both messages were in code and were identical: "We now are destroying our equipment."

Foe Stalled All Night

The Germans then headed for St. Vith and were stopped temporarily by the Eighty-first and 168th Engineer Battalions, which fought heroically under Lt. Col. Thomas Riggs of Huntington, W. Va. They were far outgunned and it was mainly by guts that they held the Germans all night.

Early on Dec. 18 division headquarters began moving out of St. Vith. Some units were halted by military police who had on American uniforms and talked with a midwestern accent. The MP's turned out to be Germans. One fired a rocket that signaled the opening of a terrific barrage against the halted vehicles.

"That was my first artillery ambush and I hope my last," said Maj. Matthew R. J. Giuffre of 2538 Grand Concourse, New York.

After a stiff fight by the 424th, a combat command from the Ninth Armored Division that had moved up on Dec. 19, Colonel Riggs' fighting engineers and the 112th Regiment from the Twenty-eighth Infantry Division, the Germans occupied St. Vith at 11 P. M. Dec. 21.

Exhausted and depleted, the 106th pulled back to reorganize Dec. 23, but the next day it was thrown into the line and helped halt the Germans finally on the north side of the salient between Stavelot and Manhay.

When Maj. Gen. Alan W. Jones activated the 106th at Jackson, Miss., in March, 1943, he told the division, "You're brand new; you have no past history to live up to, and no past sins to live down."

It still has nothing to live down and much to be proud of.

air mail

Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO
JAN 29
1 30PM
1945
CALIF.



Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Wed. Jan. 30, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

We're starting this morning in a very unusual manner. It so happenes that the rain started to roll down last night, and this morning it's still keeping up the good work. We were told to remain inside the huts and take care of our equipment for this first one-hour period, so I am doing just that right now.

Goldberg's films finally came back yesterday. They have been in the developing process for about a month, and did not come out exactly as we hoped. That was partly due to the fact that some of the pictures were taken by me. You will remember me telling about my mountain climbing experiences. I like a few that I took very well; they would have been better had the sun been shining more strongly.

the negatives just went out for enlargements, at the insistance of another of the boys, who wants some prints also. So, instead of sending the negatives home as I planned, I'll have the enlargements for you in a few days. Here are a few of the small variety, as you can see, too small for my ambitionsness. (esp. off the mountain.) We're having the better ones enlarged, ~~some~~ not included in these five.

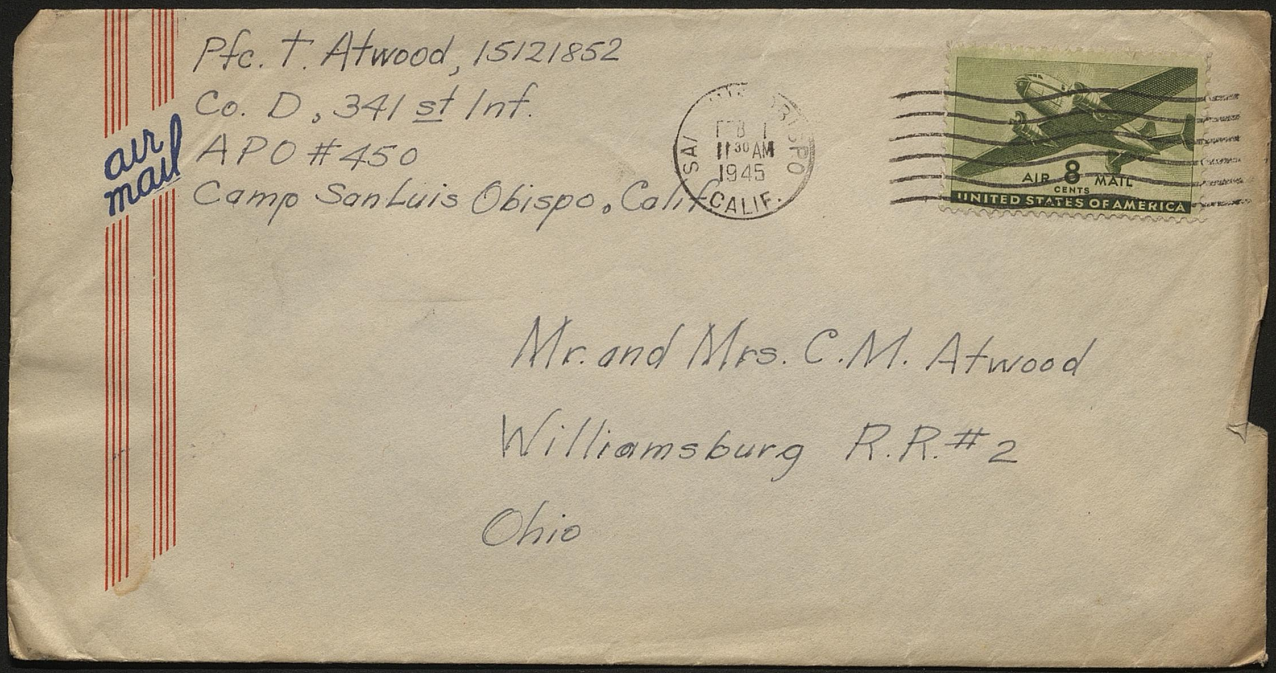
The rain is still pouring down. We've eaten a good noon chow, and we plan to spend this afternoon being entertained with some G.I. movies in the day room.

Today is the first bad day I've noticed for almost ~~two~~ a months, now

Here is a division patch, an extra I had lying around ever since we were required to remove them from our clothing. I can't imagine what you'll use it for.

Rumor has it we leave for the East next week. Now its Boston, a new development.

Your son
Thomas


air mail
Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341 st Inf.
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.
FEB 1
11 30 AM
1945
CALIF.
AIR 8 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

(Sufficient cards will be distributed to each soldier when his mail address is changed to permit him to send one to each of his regular correspondents and publishers.)

Date 1 February, 1945

This is to advise you that my correct address now is—

Pfc. (Grade) Thomas R. Atwood (Name) 15121852 (Army Serial No.)

Co. "D" (Company or comparable unit) 341st Inf. (Regiment or comparable unit)

APO No. 450 (Strike out if not applicable) c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y. (Name of post office)

Signature Thomas R. Atwood

NOTE.—Newspapers and magazines may need your old address for correct processing.

My old address was _____

_____

_____

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 204* (1 November 1943)

*This form supersedes W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 204, 8 April 1943, which may be used until existing stocks are exhausted.

c16—33987-3 GPO

WAR DEPARTMENT

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood

Williamsburg R. R. #2

Ohio

A Valentine
to MOTHER

MADE IN U.S.A.

Far surpassing
all fond tokens
That were ever
sent to cheer,
May this Valentine
heap pleasures
In the heart
of Mother Dear!

Even tho it may just say "Mother", that doesn't leave you out, Dad. They just don't seem to make Valentines for fathers anymore.

Your son
Thomas

Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO
FEB 4
10 30 PM
1945
CALIF.

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

ARMY SERVICE FORCES

SECOND SERVICE COMMAND

HALLORAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

1258TH S. C. U.

STATEN ISLAND NEW YORK

DATE JUN 3 1945

Please be advised of the admission to this hospital of Thomas R Atwood 15121852

on JUN 3 1945 for observation and treatment. Unless otherwise notified, you may assume that his condition is satisfactory. You will be notified of any change in his condition.

Visiting is permitted from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM daily. Patient will remain at this hospital for approximately 72 hours thence to another hospital for definitive care.

Very truly yours,

S B Tenner

S. B. TENNER, 2ND LT. MAC

Registrar

HGH 93—1-45

WAR DEPARTMENT

Office of the Commanding General
HALLORAN GENERAL HOSPITAL
STATEN ISLAND NEW YORK

Official Business

NEW YORK, N.Y.
JUN 4
3 30 AM
19[illegible]

Penalty for Private Use to Avoid
Payment of Postage $300

Mrs. Erna M. Atwood
Williamsburg, RFD 2, Ohio

BSH-90-55

ARMY SERVICE FORCES

BILLINGS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana

Date 8 June 1945

Please be advised of the admission to this hospital of _____

Pfc Thomas R. Atwood on 7 June 1945

for observation and treatment. Unless otherwise notified, you may assume that his condition is satisfactory. Visiting hours at this hospital are from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM daily. Visitors must obtain a pass at information desk.

Very truly yours,

G. E. Stoudt, 1st Lt. MC

REGISTRAR

WAR DEPARTMENT

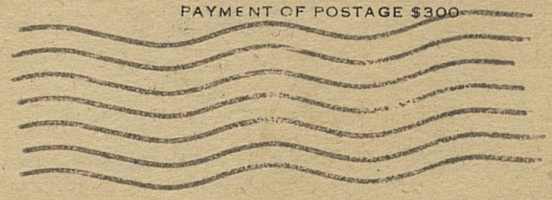
BILLINGS GENERAL HOSPITAL

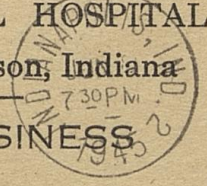
Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE $300





Mrs Erna Atwood
RFD 12
Williamsburg, Ohio

Tues. Feb. 6, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

Your description of the dead cat is most interesting. I should think that the stench would last well on into spring, when at last the big thaw might bring enough warmth to rot him away completely. It is a wonder that Eric keeps at all with the bitter cold working against him.

I forgot to mention about the allopment that I "took out" last week. As you know, when we go overseas, there is an automatic 20% increase in our pay. In my case, that will make my monthly pay about $66.00. With $18.75 + $6.40 taken out for war bonds and insurance, this leaves me with about $40.00 left lying about. Instead of buying another 25.00 war bond I decided to take a class "E" allopment for $25.00 which is made out to Dad. I suspect that a monthly check is the government's method.

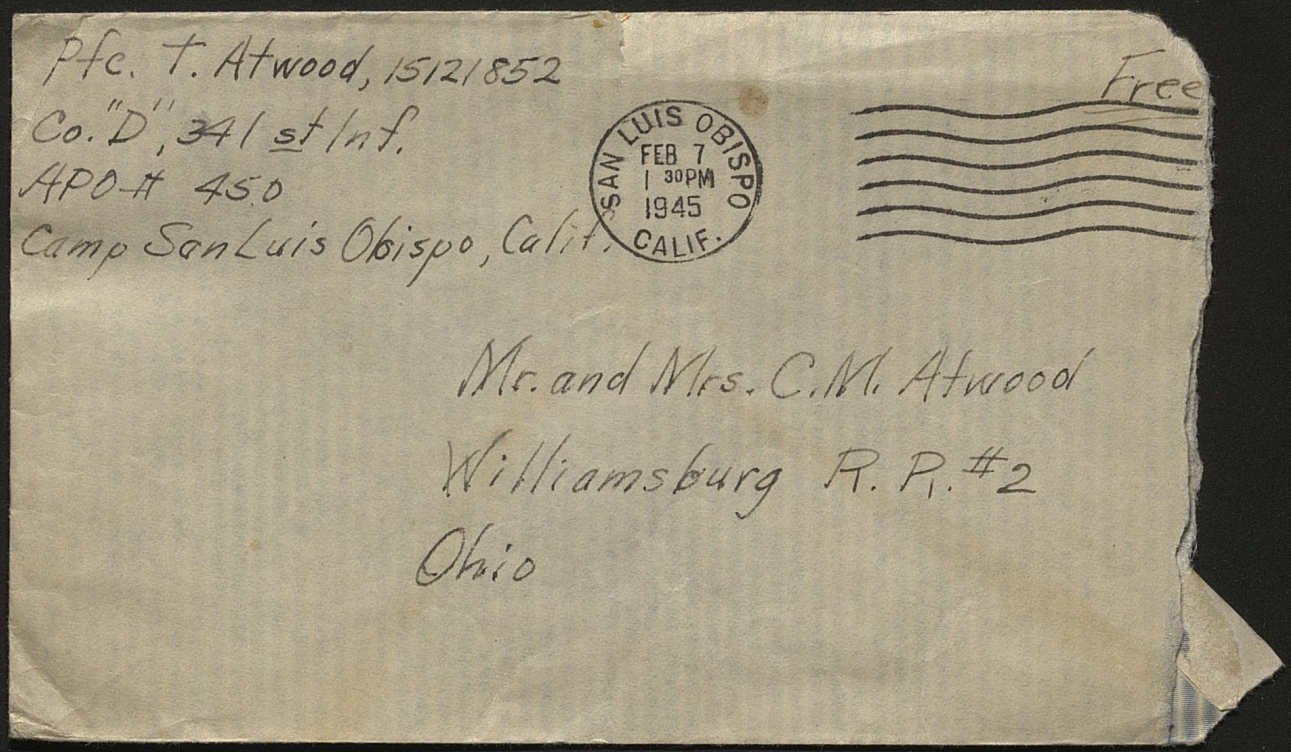
Since I owe you plenty, anyway, Dad, 2

think it best you do what you wish with it. Usually there are plenty of ways to use a little extra cash. Since I'll have $15.50 left when everything is deducted, that should be enough, since everybody advises us that there's really nothing one can spend great quantities of money on over seas. I understand the Boys in the south-west Pacific ~~at~~ had trouble with it rotting away on them in the damp climate.

Don't be surprised if it's several days before you hear from me again. I imagine my new address will be similar to Jimmy C.'s.

I have mailed a picture home tonight. It's a company picture. It would have been much better had I put in everyone's name, but I neglected to do it. Maybe you can pick me out.

Your son
Thomas


Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO # 450
Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

SAN LUIS OBISPO
FEB 7
1 30PM
1945
CALIF.

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio

Wed. Feb. 14, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

We have just begun to settle down comfortably here at the new camp. Luckily, I didn't suffer any ill effects from the change in climate, except that I've managed to get a slight cold from someone. I can appreciate what you've been going thru at home lately, if the weather here is any indication. Seeing snow again is quite a thrill after that permanent summer like stuff we had in California. It won't take long for that to wear off, I suppose, as soon as I take my first sitter.

I haven't got any letters with the new address yet; the latest one is dated the 10th — amazingly fast delivery, I think. (Pardon, I notice you reverted out the old and substituted

with Jarvis.)

I hardly think I'll be able to see any of Ruth's relations, unfortunately - although I would have liked to very much. No, I hadn't written Hunters about them, but the thought had entered my mind. The best that can be done is to call them up. The telephones are very handy here. I'm even contemplating calling up Griswold's one of these mornings, in the hope of catching you waiting for Burnetts. Due to the fact that we can get calls thru in jig time here, it might be possible to make contact. It's too bad that we never had a telephone installed.

(The pen seems to be working much better now.)

Hopes for any visit home aren't

good at all. We'll just have to wait for future ~~dog~~ developments.

Kenton has written me also. He gave me the latest report on little Emby. It's too bad that his ~~or her~~ uncle will be unavailable for the big occasion. I suppose the preparations for the big event are being redoubled. Are you planning to go to Louisville - is Ruth coming to Cincinnati - or what? Maybe another big batch of mail will roll in tomorrow - I hope so, at least. The package hasn't caught up with me yet. Maybe it won't.

I'll have to make up my bed now. I have an upper, by the way. Less drafty, closer to the light, warmer, less people sit on it, great view from here - Ha many

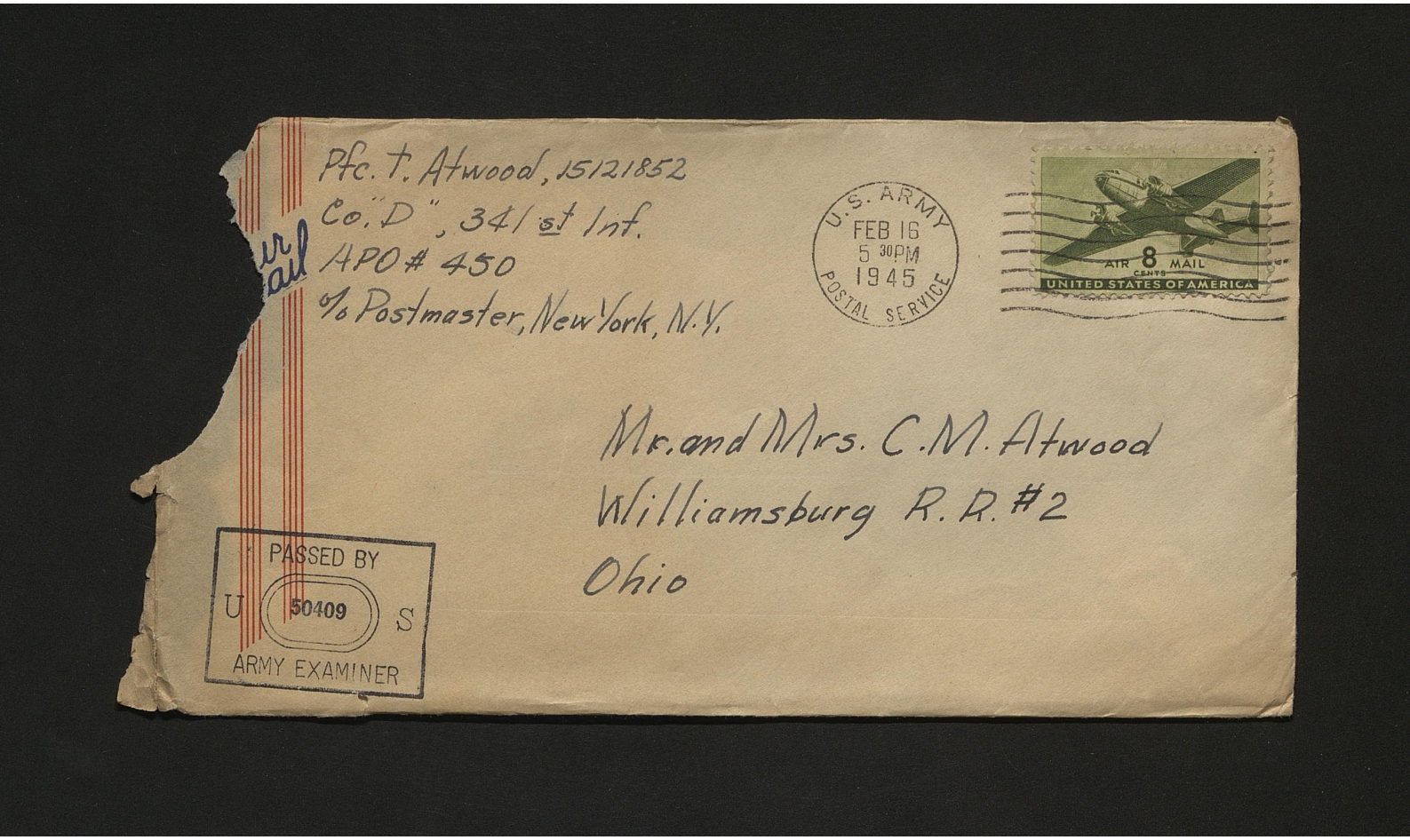
advantage.

I hope this finds you all in good health. The business of bringing in the corn fodder at this season seems a really rough proposition.

They tell me that it's legal to use 6 of animal or my letters, and, the trouble is I have an excess of 8 letters, and it might look a little odd if I rushed to the post-office wanting to exchange.

This just about exhausts me for tonight. I'll submit this to Dr. Young in the morning.

Yours ever,
Thomas


Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO # 450
% Postmaster, New York, N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
FEB 16
5 30PM
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 8 MAIL CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio
PASSED BY
U 50409 S
ARMY EXAMINER

Mon. Feb. 18, 45

Dear Mother and Dad:

Now is a good time to write you, so I may as well take the opportunity while I ~~can~~ can. We have been quite busy lately, so I haven't had as much time to write home as I would like to have had. I'll have more time now.

There isn't really too much to write about, except that I've been doing quite a bit more thinking about home and all of you lately. I'm sorry that we couldn't do as we hoped. Also that telephone call will have to wait until later.

The boxes mentioned haven't put in an appearance yet. It may be some time before I get it, indeed if at all.

I notice the writing isn't very legible, but I suspect your long practice at

deciphering my scribblings will not make it too difficult to read. There is a lack of proper writing accomodations.

We had some good chow tonight. The main course was baked beans - with soap added, I suppose. They tasted slightly like it, added to take out some of the snap. You remember how you always used to tell me that it's an old family recipe, going back to Charlie Majewski?

Please say hello to all the Laudonians for me. I won't have time to write them tonight. Give my regards to Kenton and Ruth when you see them. I wrote them one letter, which they will probably receive soon. You may want to read it if it is intact.

Don't worry if my letters don't arrive very regularly. I'll be thinking of you, even tho I may not ~~write~~ be able to write. Your son

Thomas


air mail
Pfc. T. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #467
% Postmaster, New York, N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
FEB 22
5 30PM
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 8 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

PASSED BY
U 50409 S
ARMY EXAMINER

R. M. Young, 2nd Lt.
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To: Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2.
Ohio

See Instruction No. 2

From: Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood
15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO #450
Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Mother and Dad: March 4, 1945

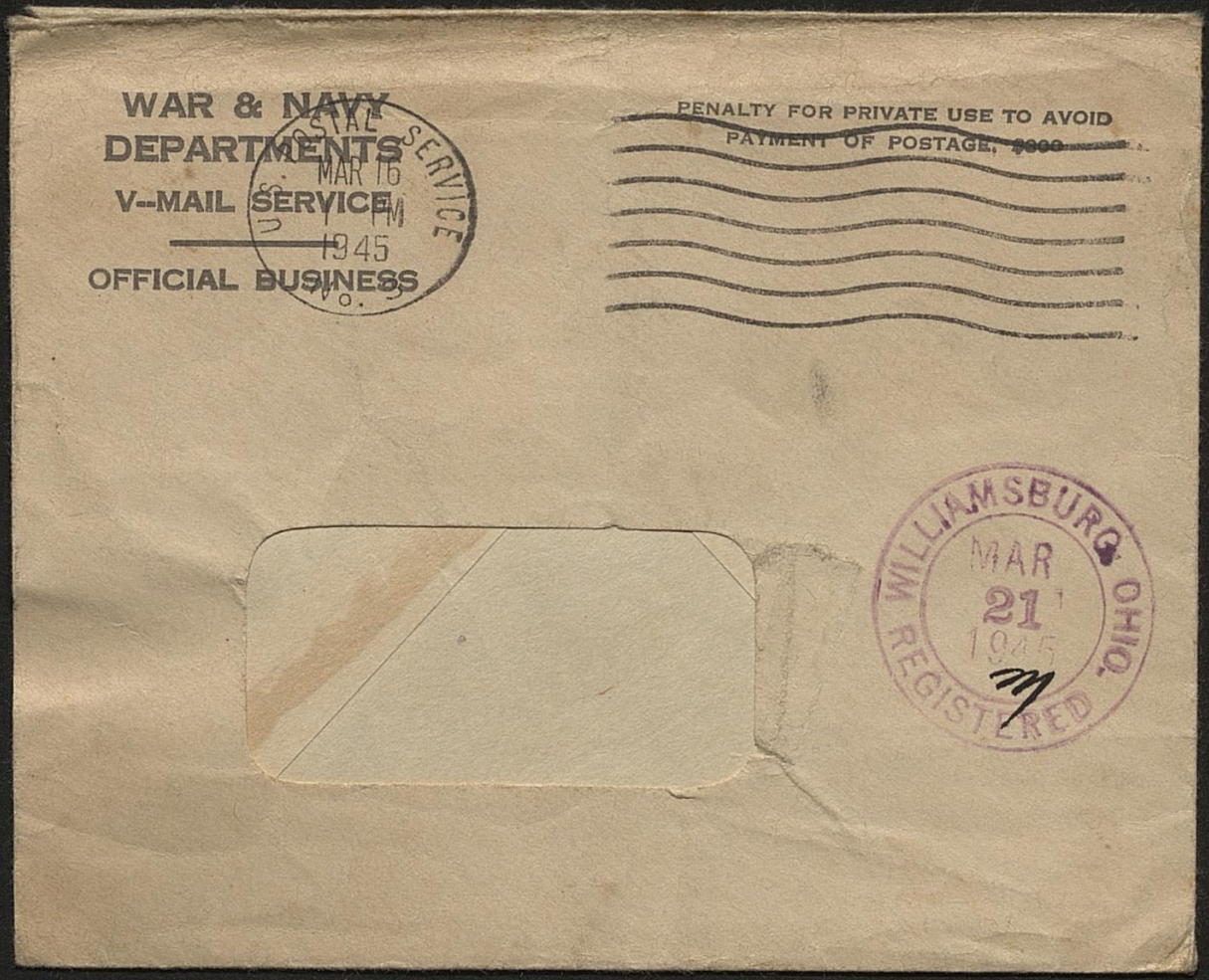
Well, this is the first letter from France. (We have been told it was permissable to say that much.) I am well (I lost my cold on the way over) and only a little uncomfortable, due to the unhandy conditions. I will just have to learn about living in a twelve man tent. It is cool, and sprinkling a little - average spring weather over here, I guess. A bevy of your letters (Feb. fourteenth to twenty first) arrived today. I was very thankful to get all the latest news. Give my love to the family and neighbors. For these first few days until we get settled my writing will be pretty limited. If you feel in the mood for sending packages you would be doing great service by enclosing candles, or any device to produce light (kerosine lamp - just the wick mechanism), soap, matches, flashlight, pocket knife, and another suitable items. The razor and package may find me soon. Your son

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

FOLD HERE


WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
MAR 16
PM
1945
No.
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300
WILLIAMSBURG, OHIO
MAR
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CINQ
SÉRIE DE
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FRANCS


LIBERTÉ
EGALITÉ
FRATERNITÉ

Wed. Mar. 8, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

We're getting settled down and established now, so that it makes living just a bit easier. The fuel shortage isn't bothering us as it did a few days ago. Now that we have quite a stock of wood and coal waiting to do heavy duty in our heater, these tents of ours can really be converted into an almost comfortable place to spend the night in. Without the heater going, it is almost impossible to keep the damp air from seeping into the sack to keep us company. I have the situation pretty well solved tho, by applying my special formula for a re-inforced sleeping bag. It consists of wrapping practically every bit of my clothing and equipment around our sleeping bags, and then crawling in the cocoon with our long johns on. So much for our tents. They have yet to prove themselves in wet weather. I hope they never have to.

Tonite we have the Coleman lamp again. It is the best source of night illumination that we have, but since there is only one lamp per platoon,

and three tents per platoon, we must rotate each night. the other two nights we go to the other tent or use our improved lights. they vary anywhere from real candles to the wax-odriety wrapping paper candles, which are not the best, but are better than nothing.

We are scheduled to have a PX set up here some time in the future. It will probably take care of all our needs in the toilet article line, and candy as well - but that source of supply can never be counted on as lasting - so it would be good to keep the packages coming this way at certain intervals until I know they were for sure. Right now, even tho I'm getting plenty of food at mess, any foodstuffs, homemade or otherwise would be welcome too, kinds what I already asked for. If you could find any dehydrated stuff, such as dehydrated soup, or perhaps some more canned food - all that would be wonderful for a midnight snack. Our stove is adequate to do any cooking that we might have a chance to do.

there may possibly be a paper shortage developing, so it is best that I write more in less space, especially in these air mail letters. According to "Stars and Stripes," V-Mail is the only type of mail which will always be sent by air mail from overseas. I suppose the volume of air mail is getting out of hand, and the boats are being called in to help out. Just the same, I prefer this type to V-Mail.

I also see by the "Stars and Stripes" that the river at Cincinnati is raising havoc. Perhaps Dema is out of work temporarily if Wrights has been inundated by Mill Creek. Apparently that flood wall never got completed. Perhaps after two or three more floods the town will have some effective flood control put into effect.

We've been tramping about the countryside over here quite regularly lately - getting in shape again, I guess. We knock off ten miles an afternoon seeing the sights. It seems that this is to become a daily occurrence which may prove very hard on shoe leather if we keep it up steadily for several months. The people seem very friendly, tho hard hit by the war. Perhaps they are well off compared to some. The farmers are very active; practically all of them are plowing now. The implements they use are

somewhat different from ours. Most crude and all horse-drawn. They are extremely neat and painstaking in their work, tho. Nothing sloppy in the way they farm - apparently know their business. I'm anxious to see what crops they specialize in around here.

These small French towns simply litter the landscape - there is one practically every two Km. They go in for brick construction over here, with a straw thatch for roofing material. Most of the houses are very ~~ugly~~ ~~ancient~~ ancient looking - I can't give an estimate on their age.

I'll have to get busy now and wash up before the light is dimmed.

Yours ever,

Thomas

Since it's the custom around here, I may as well enclose a 5 Fr. note as a souvenir.


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
air mail
APO #450
% Postmaster, New York, N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
505
MAR 11
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 8 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio
WILLIAMSBURG, OHIO
MAR
21
1945
REGISTERED
PASSED BY
U
50409
S
ARMY EXAMINER
W. R. Jones 1st Lt.

Mon. March 5, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

I'm sorry that my letter last night was so brief, but V-Mail does not give too much opportunity for elaboration. I prefer a little more space than that, so whenever we get time out in the afternoons as we have today, I'll write a longer letter. Last night, all we had was a rather inefficient candle, but I was glad we had that.

Perhaps you were not prepared sufficiently for the gap in my mail, but it was naturally impossible to give complete details. All details of our movement from the states is still unworkable.

We are allowed to describe the surrounding countryside in general. It ~~is rather~~ reminds me somewhat of home in April. Their winter wheat

is three inches high already, and there is considerable plowing activity going on. The wood scarcity is pretty acute, and all their houses are brick construction. It seems to get bitterly cold here at nights, the tents are not exactly like a steam-heated hotel room. I think we are just unused to the outdoor weather, tho, for it doesn't come near to freezing at nights. The afternoons are comfortably warm.

I'll repeat my requests, and a little more in detail. As I say, any device for producing light; candles, matches, flashlights (I know they are unobtainable, but—), lamp wicks, etc. would be very greatly appreciated. Soap, writing paper (or paper of any kind), ink, pocket knife, string, and the other usual articles would be received also. If you can arrange some water-proof wrapping to keep the matches dry, this would make the setup very handy.

WILLIAMSBURG OHIO
MAR
28
1945
M. O. S.

this is definitely a rural district. That's why I said it reminded me a little of home. The civilians are friendly, which is only natural, for the Germans have made the most of their occupation. Any occupying army can hardly be expected to have great popularity with the natives, but especially the Germans.

All our pay is to be converted to francs (value: 1 fr = 2¢.) As the inflation is pretty bad here, it may involve stupendous numbers of francs as time goes on. I haven't had any dealings directly with the civilians. I've only seen a few here about camp. They are pretty shabby - naturally so - and hard hit by the war. Later we may possibly get a limited pass from camp.

I suppose the big event at home will take place any week now. Give my love to everyone. Spread my address around a bit, in case I might get any correspondence, thru necessity or otherwise.

Yours,
Thomas


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood
15121852
air mail
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #450
% Postmaster, New York, N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
505
MAR 9
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
8 AIR MAIL CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PASSED BY
U 50409 S
ARMY EXAMINER
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R. R. #2
Ohio
William R. Jones 1st Lt.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

PASSED BY U.S. ARMY EXAMINER 50409

To: Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

From: Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood
15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #450
% P.M. New York, N.Y.

See Instruction No. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

FOLD HERE

Dear Mother and Dad: France, Sunday Mar. 11, 45.

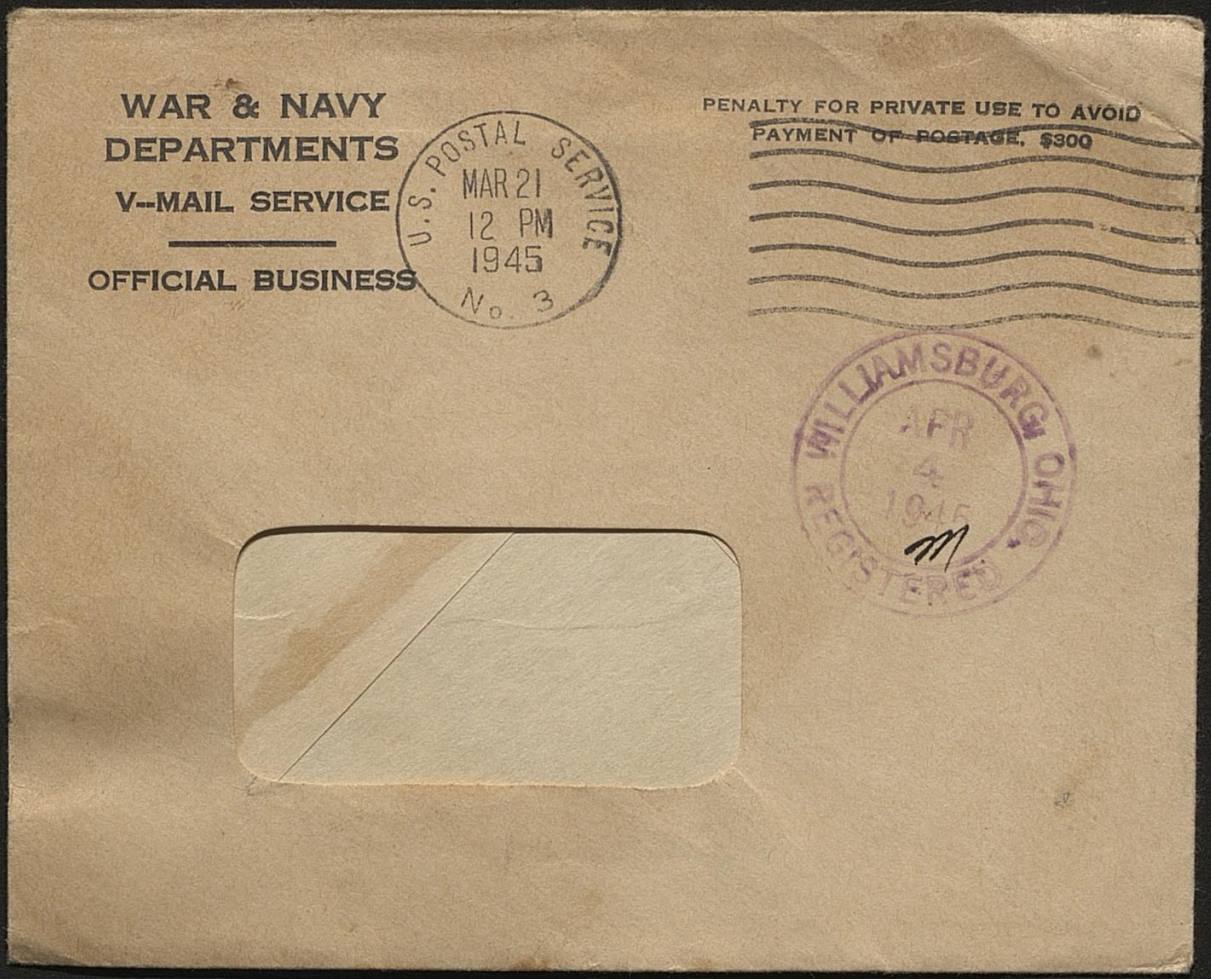
The situation hasn't changed much since I last wrote you. We're still all one happy family here in our tent. Our major problems so far have been the receiving of mail from home and undergoing this intensified hiking. The long period of inactivity has softened me up considerably, so that I finally wore a blister on left foot during our last nine mile session. The PX was put into operation yesterday. Unfortunately the supplies were very meager, so my order still stands. You might add a tooth brush, powder and shaving cream to list. I sincerely hope I don't exhaust you with my demands, but right now I can see a definite need for these things in the fairly near future. I suppose the razor package was returned. If not, it hasn't been delivered yet. I think the razor could come in handy, even if we can get blades right now. I understand that the Ohio valley experienced a nasty flood - the "Stars and Stripes" gives us good news coverage. Right now I'm awaiting out my "Time and Reader's Digest" subscriptions that were accepted last month. The first ones should be coming thru any day now. I received a V-mail from J. Creager, he wrote it here in France not knowing I was also here. All my love to you and the family. I hope it's larger by at least one by the time this reaches you. Your son, Tom

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V···-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

25


WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
MAR 21
12 PM
1945
No. 3
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300
WILLIAMSBURG OHIO
APR
4
1945
REGISTERED

Sun. Mar. 18, 45.

Dear Mother and Dad:

I trust that you have received my first letter from this side by now. You will notice that this letter has writing on both sides. This is due to a new regulation in our company allowing us to do this with legality. Our paper supply is not very plentiful, so this change allows us to write larger and still conserve sheets. Your letter of March 5th came that yesterday along with several others. They are arriving in bunches of five or six, and it may be that this will continue to be the case; no smooth delivery as it was back in the states. Still there is no sign of that long lost package. Maybe it weighed more than five pounds, or perhaps the postage wasn't enough to prevent the postmen from being confused. I look forward eagerly to its arrival. I trust that you have not had any trouble with Burnette. Surely it would not be necessary to have a typewritten list, itemized etc., to convince him that I requested the package. If this is necessary, you

have my permission to do a little forgery. I just had a brilliant? idea as to some supplies that you could easily send. Five pounds of that ground wheat that we used to have for breakfast at home would hit the spot. We have been cooking some here in the tent with good results, but ~~it's~~ it's a commercial variety not nearly as good as ours. Therefore, the ~~recipe~~ recipe, together with the wheat, canned milk, and sugar (the last two items not too essential) would come in very handy. The same goes for popcorn. I suspect we could devise our own way of poping it - perhaps in a no. ten can. There still is a supply of pop corn? Now, perhaps the same thing could be applied to corn meal - providing you send the recipe or think we could accomplish a good result on a hot stove. We have the small cylinder type which really throws out the heat when we get

a good wood and coal fire blazing away.
The same system would work with
pancake [redacted] flour (we've tried
this too.) Perhaps a few soup beans
would come in handy. You'rd, the
squad will have a Coleman stove
and combination aluminum broiler
and stew pot, just the thing for
cooking. If you can think of any
food which takes up little space
in package form, and goes a long way
[redacted] when prepared, that is the
ticket. Any dehydrated foods, soups,
etc. Many of the boys are craving
for fruit juices, but I suspect they
are almost impossible to get, besides,
in package form they really weigh.
Maybe you could find a package of raisins
somewhere. If you have any fat recipes,
such as a corn meal muffins with
raisins, don't neglect to include them
if you think I could swing the deal on
a stove. Now is the time I regret not
having spent more time in the kitchen
while I was home.

You will notice that the requests have been largely for food. The other things are scarce too. That order for candles is still standing. It would be handy if you could find some nice light air mail stationery. I can get air mail envelopes with stamp attached, as you may notice, and also V-mail blanks. The paper is the main thing. I think that a few dozen cheap lead pencils would be more easily utilized than ink. Pens are not too dependable. Always getting lost. I think with these few hints, you should be able to whip up a few good five pound packages. As long as they don't ~~cost too~~ become extremely expensive, and the mailmen do not interfere, it would be nice to send them this way at regular intervals. Please don't think we are grasping. It's just that at present the rations are slightly slim. ~~Of course~~ There is enough food for everyone, all right, but I know I'm not gaining weight. Then too, we aren't

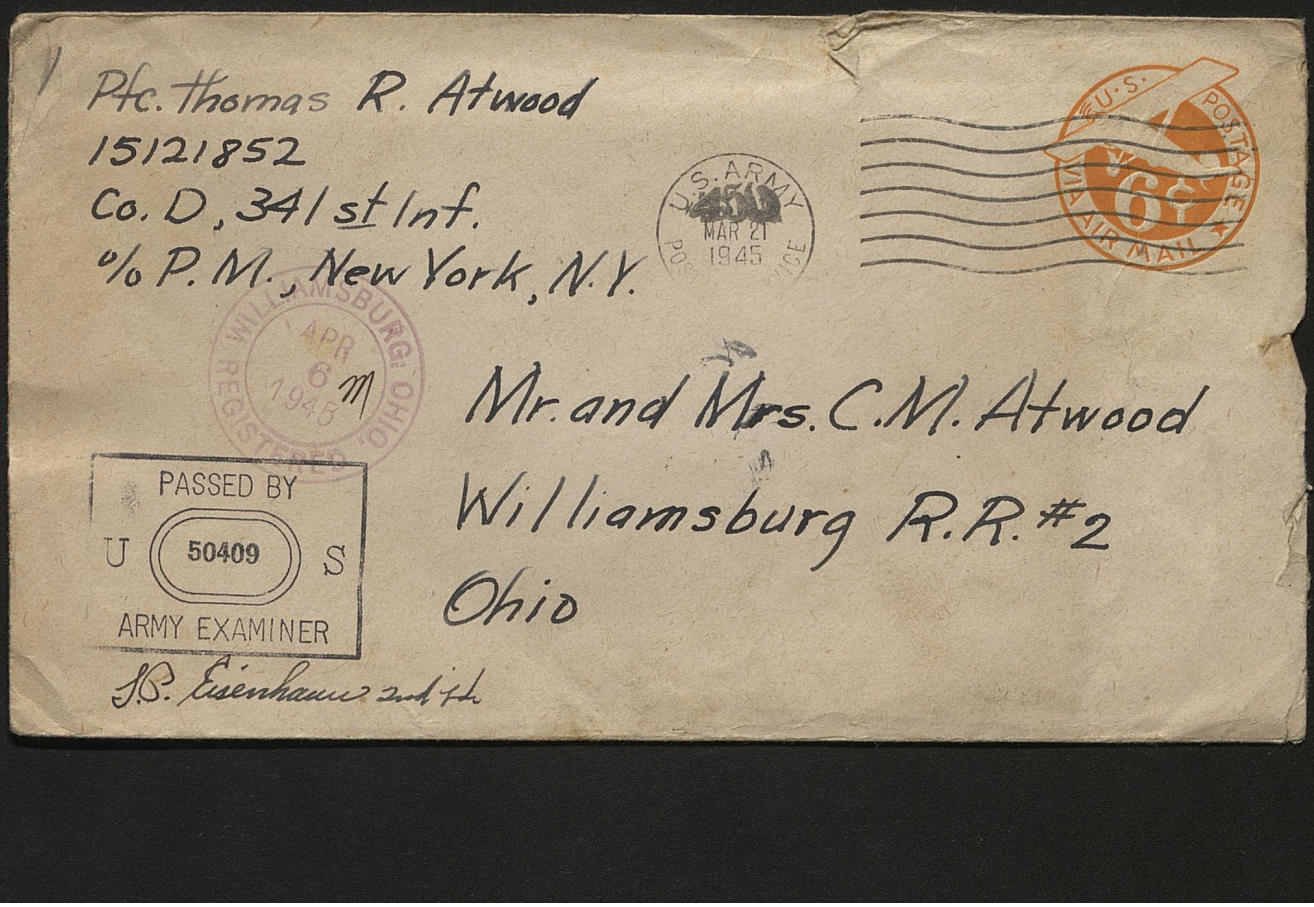
allowed to buy food from the French when on pass, for fear of our taking it out of the mouths of the hungry civilians. This is being done, of course, for the French prefer having a little less bread if they can obtain a few luxuries such as the G.I.'s cigarettes and gum. The exchange rate for a pack of cigarettes or gum is about 50 fr. (or $1.00). So, you see, the American soldier who does not smoke has considerable buying power with his tobacco ration.

Even tho we are on a seven day schedule here, we have time off on Sunday to attend services. Facilities for church attendance are not quite as good as it was in Garrison, but we manage very nicely. The services are always well attended; there are always ten or fifteen from our company who attend services. I hope by the time this reaches you that congratulations are in order for Kenton and Ruth. I am eagerly awaiting the news-

tho there's little chance of any arriving before another month. I may have a few suggestions for names, if Kenton and Ruth are hard up for ideas.

I'll write more tomorrow night when I can get at a little more time and light.

Your son
Thomas.


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood
15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
% P.M., New York, N.Y.

U.S. ARMY
MAR 21
1945

U.S. POSTAGE
6¢
VIA AIR MAIL

WILLIAMSBURG, OHIO
APR
6
1945
REGISTERED

PASSED BY
U 50409 S
ARMY EXAMINER

J.B. Eisenhower 2nd Lt

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Paint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

PASSED BY U S ARMY EXAMINER

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

FROM
Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood
19131863
Co. "D" 341st Inf.
APO 456
c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Mother and Dad: Wed. Mar. 21, '45

Your letters are coming thru regularly now, three today. They were dated from the twelfth to the thirteenth. I think eight days is good service, don't you? I've read in "Stars and Stripes" about the great flood in the Ohio valley, and it seems to have turned out for the better, especially since it failed to equal the '37 flood. I have a big (enormous for them) letter from Kenton and Ruth. Some of the information concerning relatives in New York would have been useful had the chance arisen to get there - but such was not the case. We are all well and happy - the weather still remains dry and comfortable. It wouldn't be such a bad war if we remained here in this rear area for the duration. I hope this shortage of food I read about (back home) doesn't cramp your style in preparing the packages. If Burnette gives you any trouble, just let me know. At present, I'm not gaining much weight here - just keeping stabilized. Heard from James Garrett, no word from J. Creager. Give my greetings to all the townspeople. Your son

Thomas

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

18

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
APR 3
1 AM
1945
No. 3

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE $300

Germany, April 11, 45

Dear Mother and Dad:

I hope the interval between letters has not been enough to cause any unnecessary worry. We've been almost constantly on the move, so there hasn't been much free time left for writing.

Your first package, the one with the razors, came three several days ago. It was in good shape for you did a thorough wrapping job. The razors may come in handy, providing our PX rations don't catch up with us. The stationery is likewise very welcome, but you ~~don't~~ need not send any air mail stamps, for we have access to plenty of them

envelopes such as I'm using today. I think it is simpler to use pencil for writing; not so many items to keep track of.

As for myself, naturally I'm well and happy as usual, but still I'm not gaining much weight. Your letters ~~to~~ up to the 29th of March have come thru, so I'm fully oriented about the package situation. I'll be looking forward to seeing those first two. If possible, concentrate on the food angle, for that seems to be the most scarce item right now. Anything in the small compressed food line, popcorn, ground wheat, cheese, dehydrated foods & soups, makings for pancakes or any other canned stuff that you consider practical for shippment. We have matches,

WILLIAMSBURG OHIO APR 24 1945 M.O.S.

and there is a good supply of flashlight batteries, so there is something less to worry about. A few toilet articles would come in handy. Gillette shaving cream, tooth paste, soap and the other essentials. Those candles will be very acceptable; we never know what kind a lighting we may have to use. Lately we've been billeting in German homes most of the time their electricity has been shot out, but usually they still have running water. The system we use is pretty simple, we move into a town, the Germans move out of their dwellings and we move in for the duration of our

stay. I'm beginning to wish I had had you, Mother, or Grandpa teach me German. It would come in extremely handy now. At that I'm picking up a few phrases here and there. If we stay here for occupation, I'll probably learn a little more.

We have been allowed to disclose that the outfit saw some action some time ago. It was nothing violent, really since all it amounted to was that we and the Germans sat and looked at each other across the Rhine for several days. A few got hurt by stray mortar fire, but that was all it amounted to. By the way, I saw parts of Cologne, and the damage

there is terrific. Practically every house is damaged in some way, the roof being the favorite spot. In the down town district, there is nothing but pile after pile of brick and masonry to demonstrate the terrible power of the allied bombings. Strangely enough, the cathedrals seem to have been sturdy enough to stand up under it all, although nothing but the outer shells remain. Probably you have seen the remains in newsreels or in the papers.

The war news is getting better by the hour. We all pray the end will come soon, and it must if we all continue the effort.

I was happy to hear that Bill Unterdahl is a prisoner and not killed as was believed possible.

If he remains in Dresden, it may not be long before the Russians overrun the place. Around here, there are numerous Russian slave labours who have just been freed after a three year captivity. They were told by the retreating Germans that the Americans would kill, rape, and in general raise hell with them. They are considerably relieved, I suppose, to find out differently.

I'm still waiting for word that I'm an Uncle Tom, then I suppose that I am by this time. Give my love to everyone at home, in case I haven't time to write everyone.

I trust that everything goes well at home. The crops are about ready to plant, are they not?

Your son Thomas


Pfc Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. "D", 341st Inf.
APO# 450
% P.M., New York, N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
450
APR 14
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
U.S. POSTAGE
6¢
VIA AIR MAIL
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R.#
Ohio
PASSED BY
U 50409 S
ARMY EXAMINER
William R. Jones 1st Lt.
WILLIAMSBURG OHIO
APR
24
1945
O.B.

Germany. Fri. April 20, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

The time has gone so swiftly this week that I had forgotten the date. Naturally there has been plenty doing to make it that way, but I can tell you more of that later. The important thing is that I'm well and happy - the two most desirable things. For the last few weeks we've been living on boxed "C" rations - which prove to be more filling, tho perhaps not so tasty as the regular chow our mess hall puts out. These rations are almost exclusively dehydrated stuff, which swells tremendously when one adds water. The result is that it doesn't take much to produce that satisfied feeling. I'm still looking forward to receiving ~~that~~ those packages - perhaps

they'll catch up to us any day now.
The mail situation isn't too good.
We get it in spurts of ~~from~~ anywhere
from five to fifteen at a time.
The trouble is that mail calls are few
and far between. This is naturally
unavoidable, since we are constantly
on the move. I often wonder how
the postal system manages to do as
well as they ~~do~~ do.

I received your letter of the ~~4th~~
I believe it was, telling me the glad
tidings about Katherine Alice. I
should think that Kenton and Ruth
are having a busy time of it by now.
I also have your letter of the 6th —
I trust everything is still all right

with Ruth. I'll write them a letter tonight with congratulations attached.

I suppose request time is in order again. I have the ~~[illegible]~~ recipe for that breakfast cereal, and I'm sure we'll be able to cook it. perhaps not every place we happen to be staying will have the facilities, but up to now the Army has picked us a home with an adequate kitchen. It might not be a bad idea if you could send me a few favorite receipes - for fudge (we have found large quantities of sugar on occasions) and a few of the other delicacies. Perhaps if you just have an extra English cook book available it would help considerably - I can't

make head or tail of these German ones. Of course the cooking of our five-in-one rations is very simple - add water and heat is the exclusive rule, or just plain add water in some cases. It's edible and nourishing all right, but not like home cooking. So in the next package perhaps you could include some good homemade fudge and cookies, the kind with raisins. Speaking of raisins - perhaps you would have room for a box of them and also a few Ritz crackers. Delicacies like those are few and far between over here. I'm well stocked in soap now, but could you please send me a tooth brush and

M.O.

also some bubbles shaving cream.
some powder. This just about covers
my conceivable wants at the present.
Naturally there will be more demands
later.

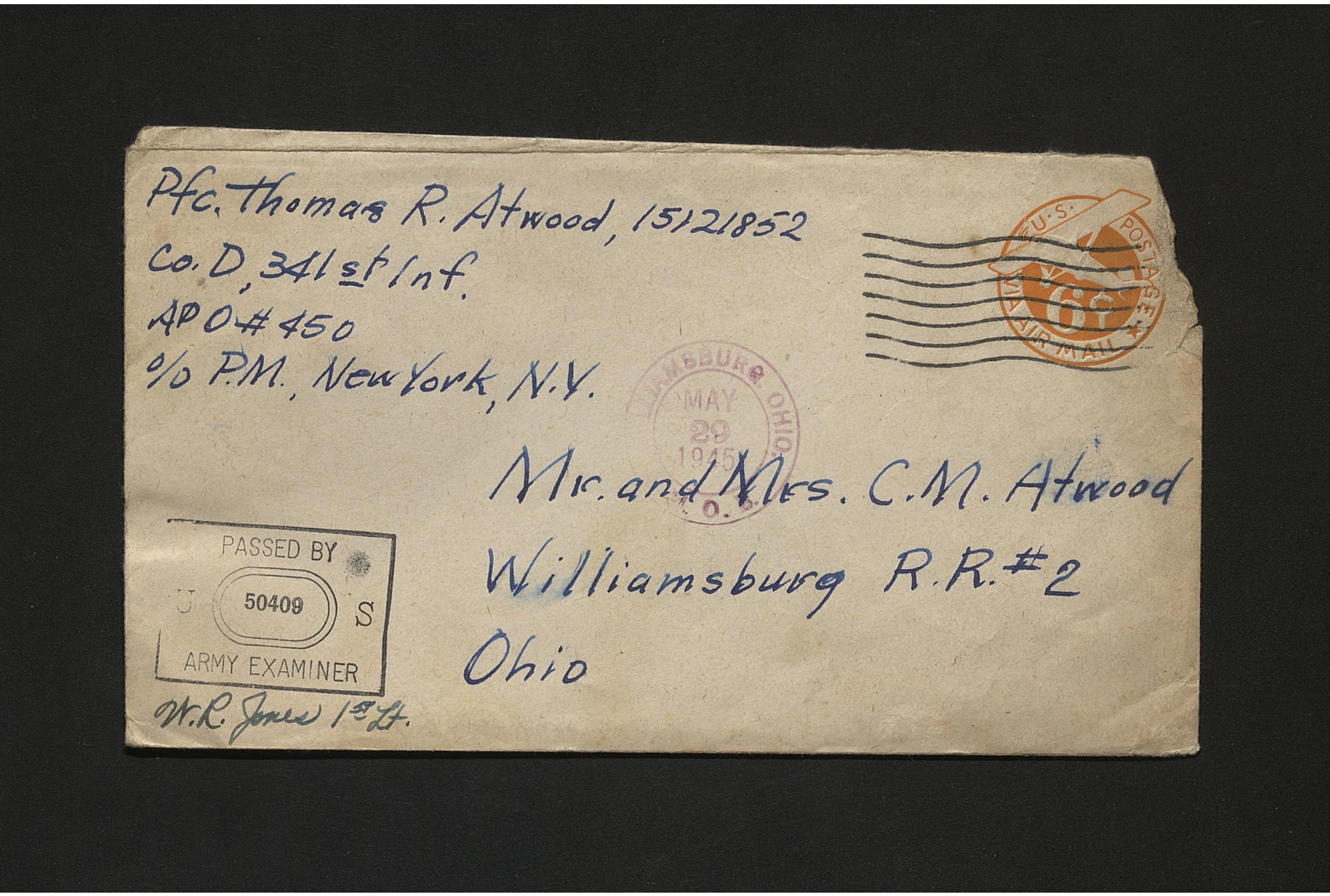
The house we are in now is not
quite so modern as the last. We
had an apartment with electricity,
running water, and a modern
kitchen all to ourselves the last
time. Here we have no electricity -
which is another hardship we must
learn to bear up under. The people
seem nice and obliging. I suppose
they can hardly afford to be otherwise.

The weather is well-nigh perfect
right now. Warm and no rain in
sight. Lets hope it stays this way.

I trust the crops are all in the ground -
although I know it's too much to expect
by the first of May - only during the
years of perfect weather does that happen.

Give everyone at home my love -
this should be enough for today.

Yours ever
Thomas


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Co. D, 341st Inf.
APO #450
c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
U.S. POSTAGE
6¢
AIR MAIL
WILLIAMSBURG OHIO
MAY
29
1945
PASSED BY
U
50409
S
ARMY EXAMINER
W.R. Jones 1st Lt.
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

Wed. May 16, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

I'm still engaged in convalescing only; and so far the inaction hasn't become boring - especially when the Red Cross and A.S.F. keeps us so bountifully supplied with current books and magazines. I have about all I can do to keep up with the supply. The most recent magazines are about three weeks old, but that doesn't take much of their reading pleasure away. Since the daily Stars and Stripes and English newspapers are brought to us, we can keep up with the daily happenings. Then there is the BBC's special hookup (A.E.F. Programs) which has its programs designed for Yanks. We get the

home news, popular music of the top bands and also special programs beamed from the states - Bob Hope, Crosby, and other well known entertainers highlight these programs.

I feel that I am much stronger than when I last wrote. My afternoon naps do not seem to be necessary - perhaps a result of my pill dose being reduced from twelve to six per day. I finally found out that they were supposed to be vitamin and mineral pills, but I am not too sure, having a rather suspicious nature wherein all pills are concerned. My eye remains the same. It gives me no trouble other than the time I take each day applying a hot soak to it, 40 minutes in all, three times a day. The heat is

supposed to hasten absorbtion of the excess blood formed when eyeball was ruptured. The salve or grease the nurse put into my eye relaxes the pupil in some way. (probably deadens appropiate nerves) so as to make the opening very large - something like belladonna if it isn't that. The purpose behind it is to relax the eye completely. Anyway, it is hard to tell what improvement (if any) is resulting from the treatment, because with the pupil this way it is there is no focus. All that gets in is the light. At best, it will take several months for the eyeball to clear up, then they'll stop using the salve. That is, of course, if everything goes accord-

ing to plan. There still has been
no word from home via APO 450.
Hope for an avalanche of mail
soon - perhaps a few of the stray
packages too. When they arrive,
many of the items will hardly
be as useful as they would have
been once, but they will still
be welcome. It's possible that
we may pack up and leave them
wandering around over here on
Europe all alone. That would be
regrettable. I still have no idea
when we are to leave for the
states, but it seems certain
that I'll be back home sometime
in the not too distant future. Eisen-
hour says that it will take 9 mon.
to move everyone out of the ETO
except the occupational forces.
It seems probable tho. that I'll

be coming home long before then.
When I do I'll probably still
be hospitalized but the army
will find one for me in Ohio
maybe. See if you can locate
the nearest. Is there an Army
Hospital in Cincinnati? Of course
I will have to persuade the doctors
that I need a long furlough.

If you want to take another
gamble with the postal system,
I'll put in another request
for a package. Cookies, candy,
crackers, cheese, raisins and all
those other undefinable things
naturally find my fist.

Everything is proceeding
smoothly back home. I hope.
I trust you have successfully

shouldered the burdens of becoming grandparents. Probably the first letters I receive will give me more particulars about our new Kentucky babe.

Your son

Thomas

Form 2247

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Friday, May 18, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

I thought it best to write you again so that there will not be any lapse between letters that you wouldn't be prepared for. I had hoped to be able to get Onno M. (a complete address from you, but I did not ask in my last letter. It is a bit late to ask now, since there would be no advantage to my knowing when I got your letter. So you needn't write until you hear from me next which I trust will be soon. It is unfortunate if you have mailed that package (or packages) I asked for. Please don't mail the second if it is still in the process of formation. If I ever get those five other ones I wonder in what condition they will arrive after making the complete circuit.

I received your letter of the twelfth today. I notice you changed the address - probably provided by receiving one of my letters from Burnette. I suppose.

The unexpected came much sooner than I thought. I will close now. Yours ever

Thomas

(over)

AMERICAN RED CROSS

P.S. I will ask some of my old cronies to write to Lorado. Reason is, I've lost my address book again (this time in Germany) and we lost their new addresses, tho I remember their old ones. I'll write later and tell you what to do with their replies.

Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Detachment of Patients
4129th U.S. Army Hospital
APO # 298 c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

U.S. ARMY
MAY 18
1945
298
POSTAL SERVICE



Via Airmail

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R.# 2
Ohio

PASSED BY
J 34760 S
ARMY EXAMINER

Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Detachment of Patients
4129th U.S. Army Hosp Plant
APO # 519 c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
519
AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Via Air Mail

PASSED BY
U 34760 S
ARMY EXAMINER

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Wed. May 23, 45

Dear Mother and Dad:

The outlook for my returning to the states is very bright. We were given U.S. currency in exchange for the English money that we possessed when we arrived here. The Army has moved much swifter and with more than its usual efficiency, so far. I hope it continues to do so.

My mail still remains snarled up in the maze of A.P.O.'s scattered throughout England and the Continent.

FORM 589 A

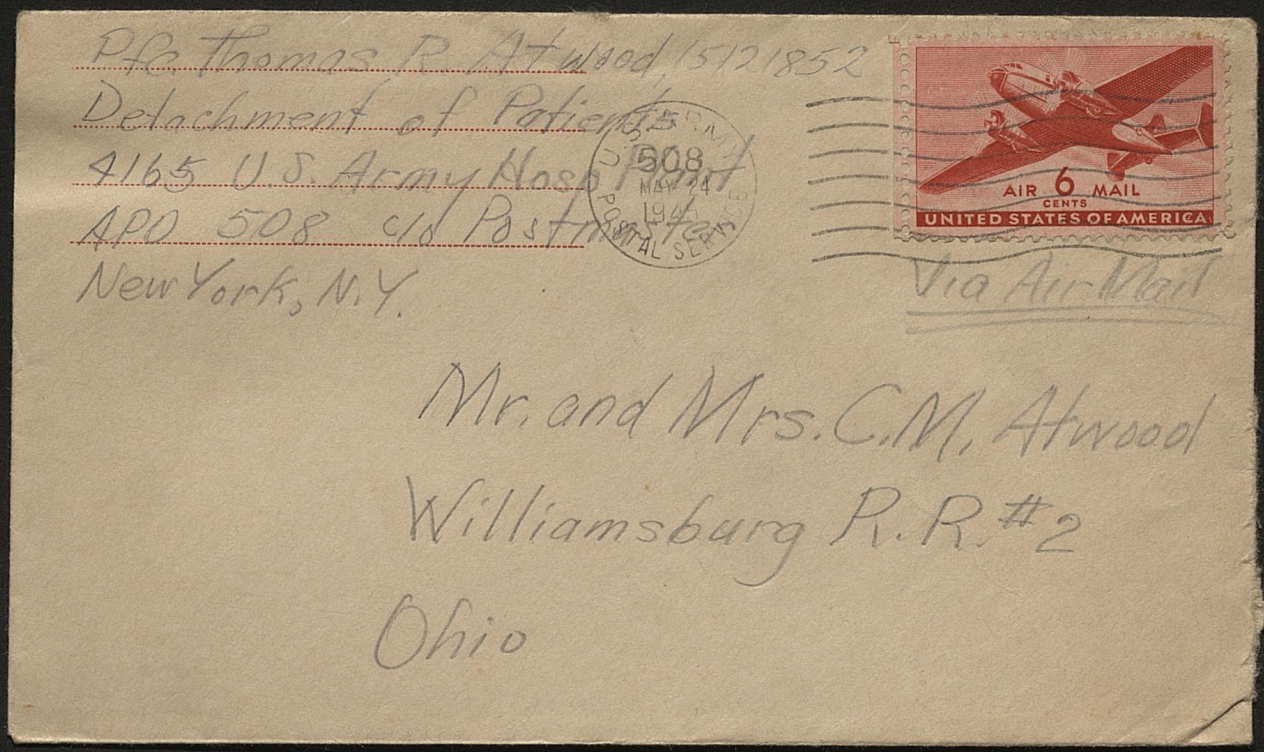
I seriously doubt that it will have all caught up with me by the time we finish off Japan.

The weather today has been a little of everything. English climate seems never sure to make up its mind one way or the other these days. We have a few minutes of sunshine then the clouds will form and in a while the rain will begin. A few minutes later - sunshine again.

There will be a gap in my letter, nothing unusual - of course.

Your Son

Thomas



Pfc Thomas R Atwood 15121852
Detachment of Patients
4165 U.S. Army Hosp Plant
APO 508 c/d Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

508
MAY 24
1945
POSTAL SERVICE

AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Via Air Mail

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio

4165 Hospital Plant

APO 508, c/o POSTMASTER
New York, N.Y.

DEAR Sir:

I am pleased to inform you that on 23 May 45 (Date) your

Son (Relationship), Pfc Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852 (Grade, name, Army serial number)

was * making normal improvement and

~~Diagnosis~~ † evacuated to the United States. Final Report.

Very truly yours,

A. N. HALLEN
CAPT MAC
REGISTRAR

* Enter present status as—
Making normal improvement.
Convalescing.

† Must be written in nontechnical language.

W. D., A. G. O. Form 234
9 November 1944

UKB. 3-45/1,000M/L-14428 (16/44/4 56859) 31911

If undelivered return to
CASUALTY BRANCH
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 30
9-PM
1945

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300
(GPO)

Mr. Charles Atwood
RFD # 2
Williamsburg, Ohio

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Sun. May 20, 1945

Dear Mother and Dad:

Perhaps I was a bit over-optomistic in my last letter, but not very much so, I hope. Perhaps we will yet be able to celebrate your birthday, Dad, as well as Kenton's.

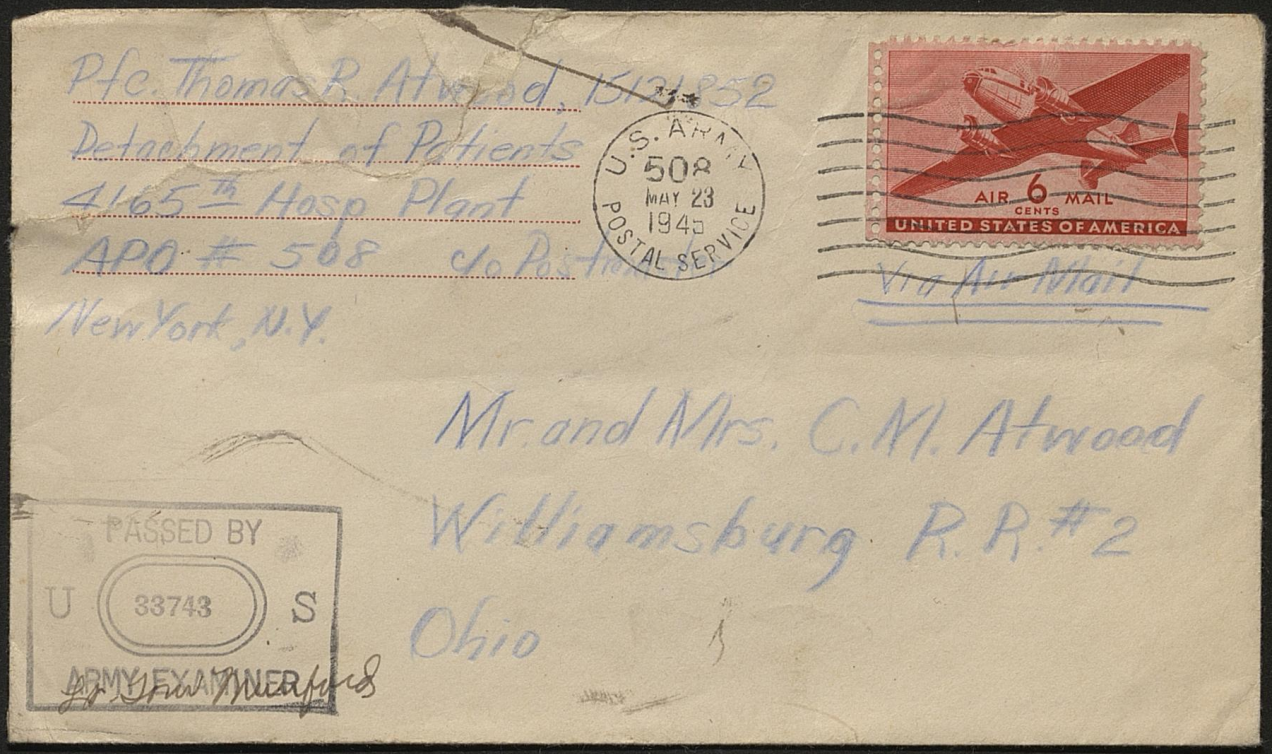
Southern England is very beautiful this time of the year, even tho visibility is usually limited by the impregnable haze, drain or fog, whichever it happens to be. The weather may take a good turn tho, for this afternoon was very sunny.

FORM 539 A

ideal for the Whitsun Sunday holiday-
ers. This is the first holiday the
English weathermen had been able
to give advance information about
since 1939.

My eye is giving me little
trouble, and it is not nearly
so bloodshot. The trouble is I
~~can't~~ haven't any light per-
ception left in it anymore.
Just the same, your own eye
is much more handy than a
glass one - you must take them
out frequently for cleaning, I under-
stand.

With my move to this hospital,
naturally my mail won't catch up, or
if it does the 9th wonder of the world
will have appeared. Your son
Thomas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U.S. ARMY
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POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Via Air Mail
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R. #2
Ohio
PASSED BY
U 33743 S
ARMY EXAMINER

Mon. June 4, '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

It seems strange not to have the ocean forever looking over my shoulder. I'm hoping I won't have to contend with him again.

We arrived from Seaford on the SS. LeJeune (the same gentleman who gave his name to the Women Marine camp in N. Carolina.) Anyway, the whole crossing was pleasant in every way, except for a few days when the ocean was rough enough to make it more comfortable to remain in bed.

except at meal time, for I never missed a meal, taking full advantage of the splendid Navy chow. Most of the three thousand men on board were RAMPS, (Recap Am Pris), and nearly all of them were Air Corps officers. [redacted] we docked at Staten Island, and were whisked by bus to Halloran General Hosp.

I called up Kenton on the telephone this morning. Due to a slightly garbled connection, I couldn't quite get everything he said, although their reception was perfect. He agreed to call this gold Miss Stars, which

I thought would be about the quickest way of notifying you, since it will be inconvenient to try to catch you while getting the mail.

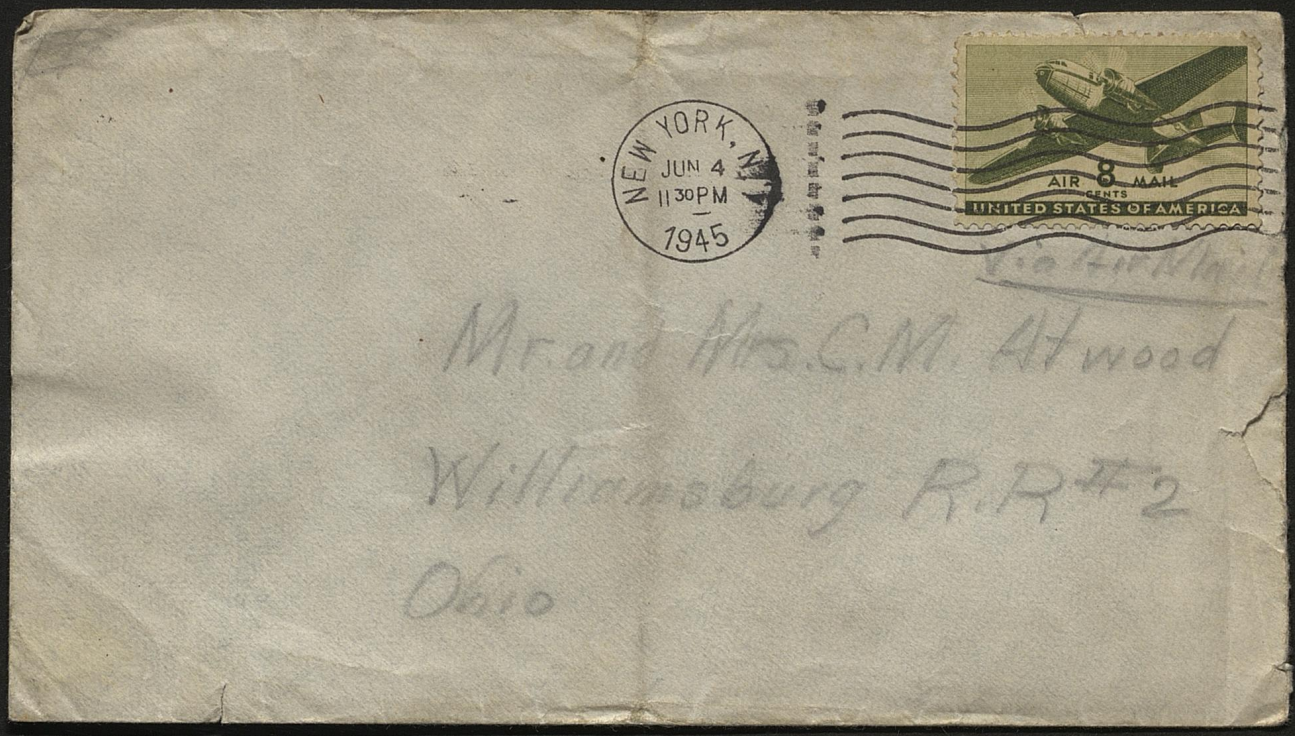
I will be here in New York for several days. Standard time for in and out traffic is 48 hours. From here I go to some hospital in or near Ohio, either Cleveland or Cambridge in Ohio, and various other hospitals are scattered around here and there. Vacancies determine where they send me, for there is supposed to be overcrowding. But since I don't particularly need any hospital care, I should be out in three weeks a day or so, and send home on various leaves and

furlough, reporting back to the hospital until my eye clears up or I get a discharge. The possibility of a discharge is pretty good although if the eye recovers that will be nothing wrong with me at all - good CBI material. We will just have to wait and see, but I expect to be home within a week at ~~me~~ present.

I trust everything is going well with you. Keep everything under control until I appear.

We are to get 12 hr. passes to N.Y. City this noon. Yours ever

Thomas


NEW YORK, N.Y.
JUN 4
11 30 PM
1945
AIR 8 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R.#2
Ohio

WAR DEPARTMENT

Office of The Registrar
Billings General Hospital
Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
JUN 8
6-PM
1945

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

Mrs Erna Atwood
RFD 12
Williamsburg, Ohio

27 July '45

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, procedure for my discharge is coming along in fine style. I have everything completed including the signing of my discharge. All that is required now is the Colonel's signature, which he will affix sometime next Monday. So, I am really getting out - much more easily and much faster than the average, I assure you.

The Veteran's Hospital deal is as follows. My petition for a discharge is handled by the Veteran's administration. It is already filled out and on the way. Along with it go my Army Medical records, so that it is unnecessary for me to be present for a physical examination. However, after I start receiving my pension (it should be around 58% disability, or about $50.00 per month) I will probably have to report periodically

& the Vets Hosp. in Cincinnati for subsequent exams to determine if any change has taken place for the good or otherwise. If any change does occur, a corresponding change in pension result. A very efficient system, don't you think? The pension should become evident after a month or two. These things take considerable time to be recorded ~~to~~ hundreds of times between here and Washington.

To apply for benefits under the G.I. Bill, I must contact the school I plan to attend, where I fill out a little form which is waiting there for me. This also takes considerable time to become effective - but I have enough time between now and the last of Sept.

Then I have to contact some draft board or other. It may as well be Batavia, because I want to get my discharge recorded at the same time, so I can get a copy if the original is lost. Otherwise, it takes ten years to get another from Washington.

I also have authorization to wear my various little ribbons. The only thing bothering me is my insurance. I can get protection for eight years (beginning Jan. '44) by continuing my present Government insurance. That's the ten thousand policy. Of course, it vanishes after that, being term insurance, and this policy has no value. So, I could convert it to regular life insurance at considerable cost. But I already have $5000.00 worth, have I not? I can carry the ten thousand for a few months longer by paying $6.50 a month, and then decide what to do with it.

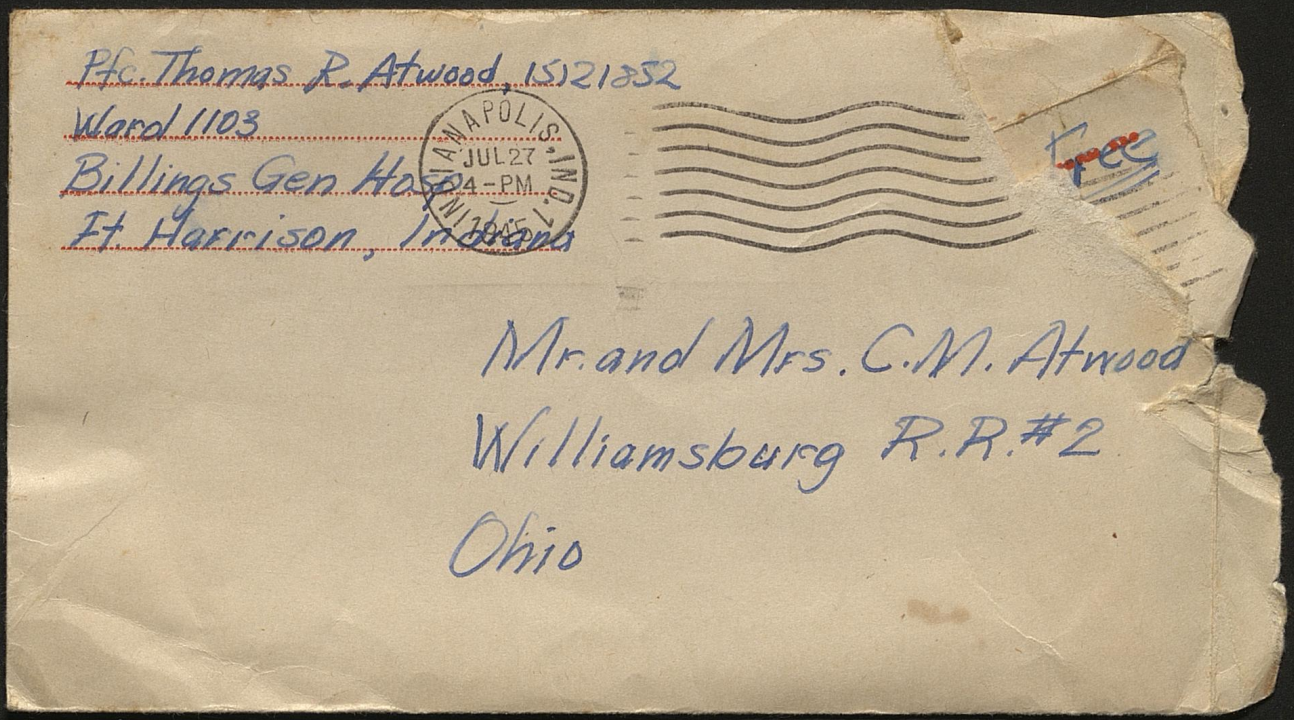
So, off to the post for this afternoon.

I'll probably see you sometime late Monday night or Tues. Morning.

Your bro.

Thomas

C


Pfc. Thomas R. Atwood, 15121852
Ward 1103
Billings Gen Hospital
Ft Harrison, Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
JUL 27
4-PM
1945

Free

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Atwood
Williamsburg R.R.#2
Ohio