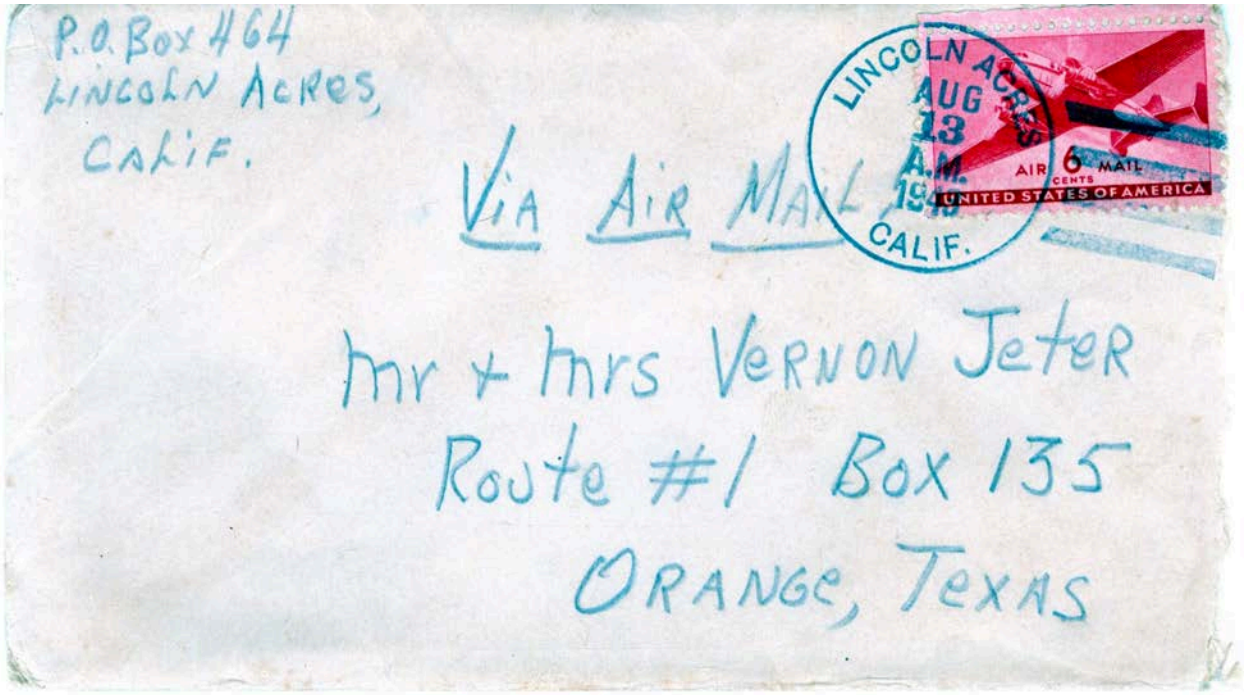
Letter 1


P.O. Box 464
Lincoln Acres,
Calif.
LINCOLN ACRES
AUG
13
A.M.
CALIF.
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Via Air Mail
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1 Box 135
Orange, Texas

2

At home
Thursday nite

My dear Mom & Pop,

Well, I'm late again but that ~~can't be unusual lately~~, is it? I just don't want you two to worry when you don't get my letters just when you usually do. The reason I didn't write as usual Tuesday was because we went to a benefit performance over at North Island. (North Island is the biggest navy base on the Pacific Coast.) Mr & Mrs O'Hagen, our landlord & landlady are stage & screen actors and they asked us to go with them and we sure did enjoy it. Their act is so cute. They have been acting professionaly for about 40 years and have been all over the world several times. They

have pictures and trinkets from everywhere. China, Russia, Australia, South America, France, Hawaii and every place you can think of. They sure are lovely people and so nice to us and they seem to like us a lot. Everybody calls them Mom & Pop but Pat & I.

Well, we are still working 7 days a week but only 8 hrs. Worked last Sunday but I don't mind think I have to this week. The check sure is nice but that day off is mighty nice to. We had our Sunday School picnic Saturday evening and it was a huge success, there were about 150 people there. Had a swell time, played all kinds of games & I sure got sore from playing baseball & foot. ball.

3.

I am still working in the yard at home, worked until about 8 o'clock tonite. Am building a dog-proof fence all around the yard. Am making it out of picking cane and its really going to be a honey. Between us and the people on and right, am making the fence 7 foot high so we can have a little more privacy. Between us and the O'Hagens it only going to be about 4 ft, just tall enough to keep Mopsy in. We have a big back yard and we can leave her outside all day if we decide to go somewhere & she has plenty of room to run and exercise herself. I sure do enjoy working around the place because they make us feel like it was our own place and too the rent at $25 for such a nice

4.

place makes me feel more like working around the house. Have put up some new window screens and as soon as I finish with the fence I'm going to seal in the back porch and front room with slates, a regular room and wall filler. It sure does looks nice when it gets up and a good paint job is put on. I just hope I get another deferment when this one is out in October so we can enjoy our work longer. You know I only have a little less than 2 mths. left in this one and then I'm living on borrowed time again. But I not going to worry about it, going to do just what I did with it last time, just leave it up to the Lord for we know that all thing happens for the good for those who love the Lord.

5

How is Mama getting along by now. I'm so glad she is getting along so good. Just hope she keeps it up and continues to get better all the time. Tell her I think of her often and remember her in my prayers.

Well, here I go again asking you to do something else for me, seem I'm always asking you to do something. This time its Kodak film, it is impossible to film here and we haven't taken any pictures in so long. Now before I finish saying this I want you to promise not to go to any trouble to find them, promise? O.K. I'll pay you for any number of rolls of number 616 (six sixteen) film up to a dozen. We want to take some pictures of our place here, Mopsy, the church and lots of things we don't have and can't find film at all.

C.

I'll send you a picture of my little Ford to if we get any film.

Well, guess I'd better close for this time as it now 10 o'clock and I still have a bath to take and by then it will be past my bed time. Just remember not to worry if you miss a day or two on hearing from me because I'm so terribly busy but will try to keep my letters up to date. Be sure to write us often because I do love to hear from you so much. Remember I do love you both with all my heart and always will. With all my love and kisses,

Your same son

James Ferrell

P.S. Tell Jacko we got her letter and to be a good little girl and maybe we will see her before many months. We hope to get home for a month before Xmas. XXXXXX

Letter 1

P.O. Box 464
Lincoln Acres,
Calif.

Via Air Mail
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1 Box 135
Orange, Texas

Lincoln Acres
Aug 13
A.M.
1943
Calif.

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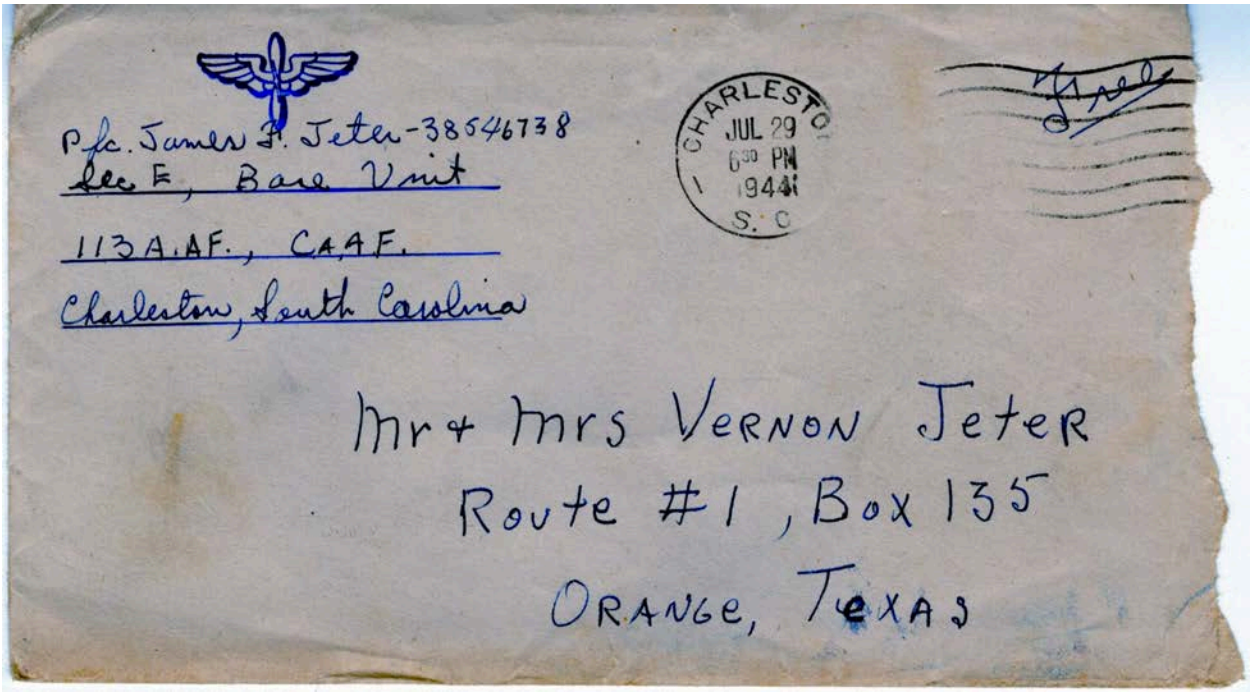
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and kisses.

Your same son
James Ferrell

P.S. Tell Jocko we got her letter and to be
a good little girl and maybe we will
see her before many months. We hope
to get home for a month before Xmas. xxxxxxx


Pfc. James F. Jeter-38546738
Sec E, Base Unit
113 A.A.F., C.A.A.F.
Charleston, South Carolina
CHARLESTON
JUL 29
6:30 PM
1944
S. C.
Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
ORANGE, TEXAS

1.

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

Dearest Mom & Pop;

Well, here I am again and even if I don't not have much news I can let you know that I am well and happy. I am getting along extra good in all my classes, thanks to the instructors school at Laredo. I have taken four tests so far and I have 2-100's, 1-99 and 1-94 on them which gives me an average of 98½ for the whole works. I am kinda proud of my grades and my pilot Lt. Combs is also and he bragged on me and that made me extra good, makes a fellow want to do his best

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

when he gets credit for it. We haven't started flying yet but we expect to any day and I am anxious to start because I got most of this schooling at instructors school which makes it very easy for me now, sure was lucky to get to go there at Laredo and I never will regret it.

I do have a little something you will be interested in. I and Dot are making some plans so we can be together the last month I am here. I have this boy from Marshall on the same crew with me and our wives know one another so we are

3.

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

going to try to get them both down here to stay a while. If they can get gas they are coming in the car so I can get to + from the field as bus service is pretty bad. Dad and I have several hundred dollars saved and although I don't believe we will need it, it couldn't be used for a better purpose. We (this boy + I) want to get a two bed room house or apt + share the bills which will make it a lot cheaper. I'll be getting about $100.00 a mth with flying pay + Dots allotment and we should be able to make it O.K. Will let you know how everything turns out - I'm praying for the best!

4.

Gee, the war does look good for us and maybe it won't be long before Germany folds and after that I believe we can knock the Japs out pretty darn soon. Dad you should feel proud of what you have done for the war effort because you + Mom have done wonderful with bonds + you have helped build a many a boat for our boys! I am so glad you are getting a paid vacation because you both need it and a couple of days on the creek out away from everybody will do you worlds of good besides having one wonderful time. I'll bet you catch lots of fish and I wish I could be there to help catch them, oh well some of these days before to long we can all get together like we used to.

5.

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES

We have our complete crew now and they all seem to be really swell fellows. We have four second lieutenants, two corporals, a Staff Sgt and three of us are Pfcs. We are all looking for promotions sometime in the future and I am ready for it because as a corporal I'll get $66 dollars a month. Even after all deductions I'll only get about $36 but that's a $12 a month raise as I only get $20 now. I like all the fellows swell and although I didn't know their boy from Marshall before the army came into my life, our wives know one another and he is a swell fellow, he is the tail gunner on our crew & is O.K.

6.

We haven't been doing much of anything except take checks + tests and should start flying next week, & hope so because I am anxious to start shooting those Cabiba 50's again because I want to be plenty good when I have to go overseas. What do you think of my going over as an instructor good eh? Be sure not to tell any body but I knew it would relieve you a lot to know I wasn't going right into Germany! Ha - it isn't going to be bad at all except that I will be so far away from the people + parents I love. See, I am so proud to be your son because you are the sweetest two people in the world + I love you so very much!

7.

I have enjoyed my travels a lot and after the war is over you two, Dot and I can buy us a new Chrysler, DeSoto or Oldsmobile & tour the country and see all the pretty thing at a closer view. I'll bet we could have had a good time in Washington & we could have spent the night there & still beat the train here as it was slow as sugar on a cold morning. Hope the next trip I take like that is to home!

"Coke" kinda saw the other boys togged in the election didn't he? I guess he was the fellow you wanted to see win wasn't he. Larry Irishman got beat. I may vote in the presidents election on a soldiers ballot & I guess it will be for F.D.R.

as I think he shouldn't be replaced during the war, sure hope he wins!

Well, guess I'd better close for this time as its chow time at the mess hall. The food has been good here of late & I enjoy it as well as I could any G.I. food. What I need is some of your home cooking Mom or Dots - yep that's exactly what I need. Hope you are getting my mail O.K. and I'm getting yours swell. I'll cut this off for this time but will write you again very soon and let you know all the news and how I am getting along. Remember I love you with all my heart & always will.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell
XXXXXXX

Letter 2

Pfc. James F. Jeter - 38546738
Sec E, Base Unit
113 A. A.F., CAAF
Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston
Jul 29
630 PM
1944
S.C.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
Orange, Texas

U.S. Army Air Forces Letterhead

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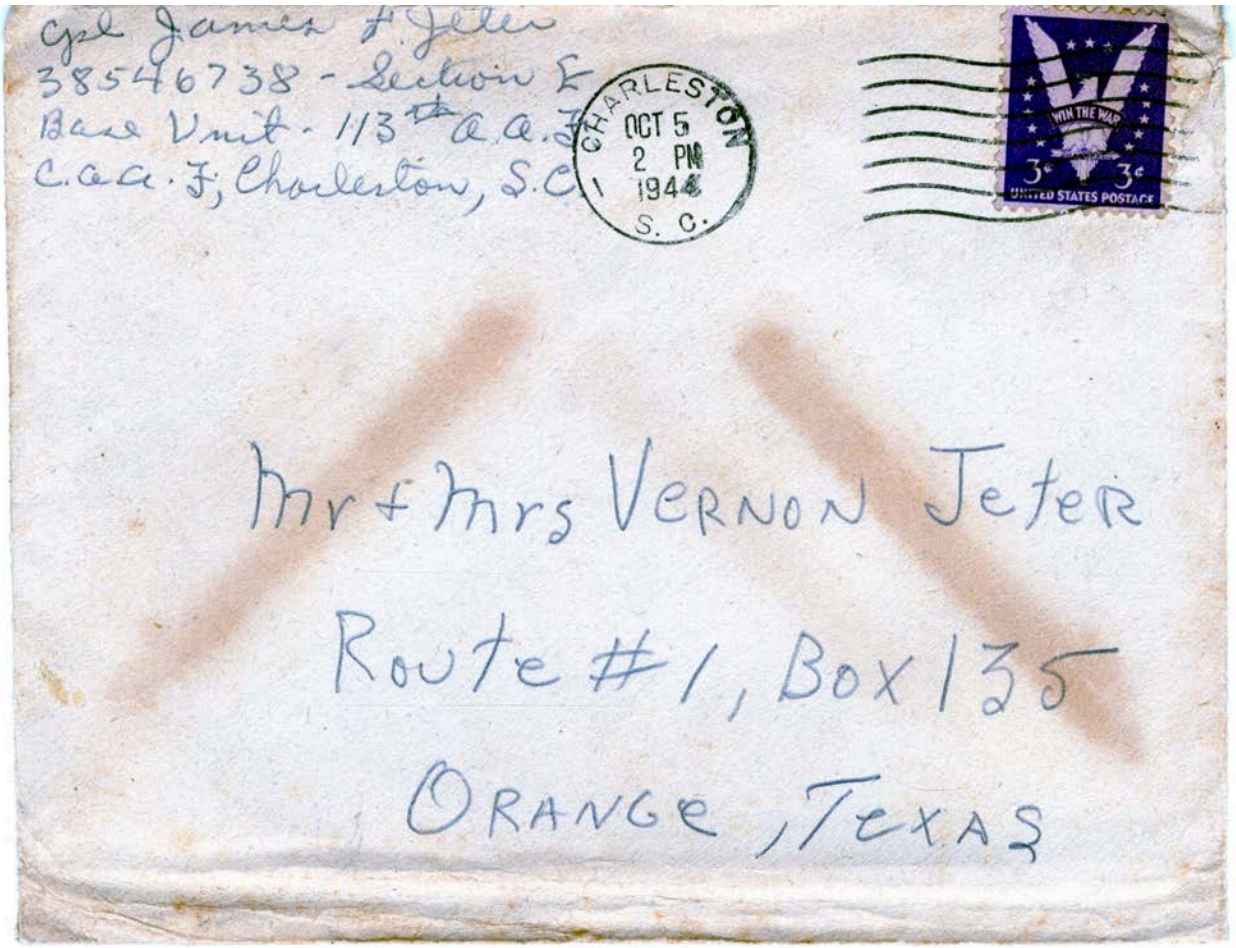
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Your some loving son,
James Ferrell
xxxxxxx

Letter 3


Cpl James F. Jeter
38546738 - Section E
Base Unit - 113th A.A.F.
C.A.A.F., Charleston, S.C.
CHARLESTON
OCT 5
2 PM
1944
S. C.
WIN THE WAR
3¢
3¢
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
Mr & Mrs VERNON Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
ORANGE, TEXAS

Wednesday nite
October 4, 1944

My dearest folks;

Well, since tonight is my last night here, thought I would drop you a line & let you know I'm feeling swell and ready to go. We are now going to New York City & I'll write you again as soon as I get there. My cold is still here, slightly but I feel no effects of it so I guess its about gone.

I'm enclosing an autographed picture of our crew because I thought you would like to

2.

see what a grusome looking bunch we really are. Thats Billy Craig, the Marshall boy next to me on the left side of the picture. Thats all our officers kneeling down in front and they are also swell fellows like the enlisted men + I think its the best one on the field. Our crew number is 360, the best.

How is everything back there, is it still warm or has it cooled off? Its still fairly warm here but it cools off plenty at night + our winter uniforms are now in use, I like it though.

3.

Did you ever decide about the house at Carthage or Longview? Let me know what you decide to do about it. See, I'll be so glad when the four of us can all get together again in the house at Longview and have a big time. Keep writing me here at this address until you get my new address and it will be forwarded to me. Still don't know what we will do or where we will go. I'll let you know any news I get, if I can because our mail will be censored after

4.

we leave here. Hope to get a couple of days off & see the sights of the city & that should make nice writing.

Above all darling, don't worry about me because I'll be O.K. always & I'll be home again sooner than you realize. Just you remember always that your same son loves you with all his heart & always will. I'll write you again as soon as I get to my next field. Please don't worry about me, I love you so.

your loving son
James Ferrell

Letter 3

Cpl James F. Jeter
38546738 - Section E
Base Unit - 113th A.A.F.
C.A.A.F., Charleston, S.C.

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Charleston
Oct 5
2 PM
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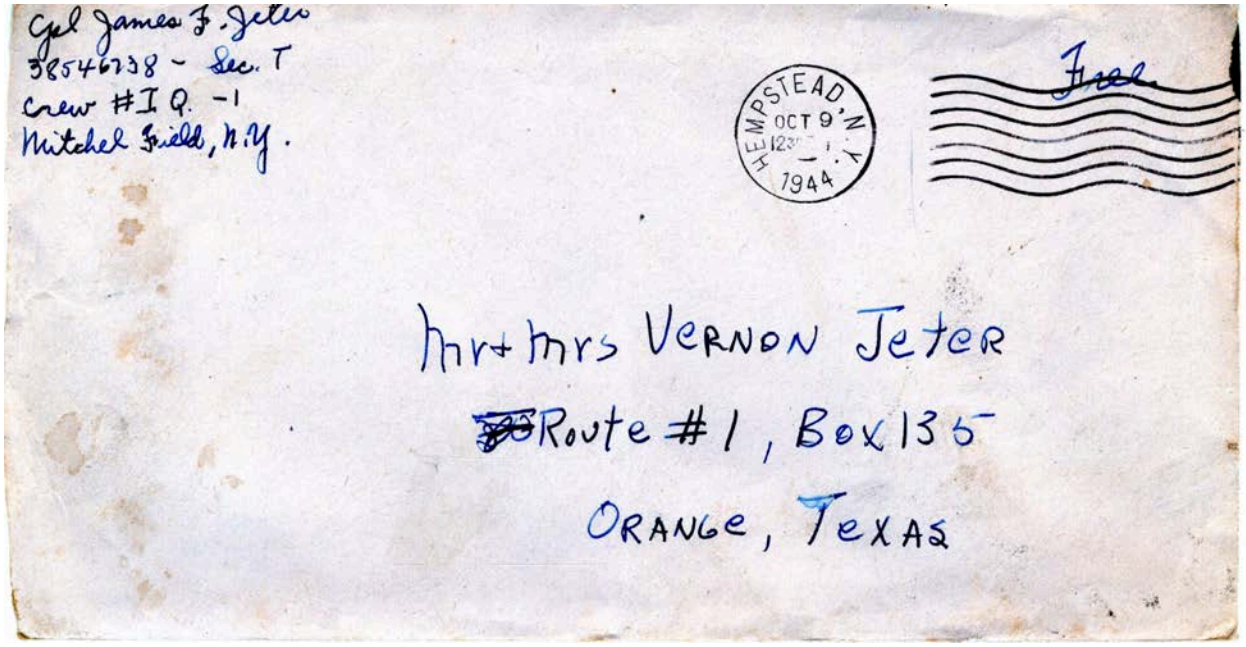
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Please don't worry about
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Your loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 4



Sunday eve
October 1944

My ~~sweet Mom & Pop~~ ;

Just a few lines to let you know I got to New York o.k. and that I am fine and like the new field swell. We came up on the train from C.A.A.F. and had a nice trip all the way & really enjoyed it. We were really surprised at how nice Mitchel Field is and it's really swell & only an hours ride from New York City.

Four of us went into town last night just to say we'd been there & while we were there, had our picture made in a photo joint and I'm enclosing a copy, thought you would like it. The bottles are empty of course & I know you never worry about

my drinking - please never worry over that because you know I'm not a drinking person, I don't particullary like New York it just pretty like Dallas only bigger! Saw lots of tall building and some pritty sights, also lots of theaters and went to Wall Street and up Broadway. Had a fairly good time but it was way to crowded for me. I'll write you more about it later when I have a little more time.

Hope you two sweethearts are both well and happy + getting along O.K. Just don't worry about your son cause I'll be home before you know it. I'll write again within the next couple of days but till then remember your son loves you with all his heart. Your same son,

James Ferrell

P.S. note address on front!

Letter 4

Cpl James F. Jeter
38546738 - Sec. T
Crew #IQ - 1
Mitchel Field, N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
Orange, Texas

Hempstead, N.Y.
Oct 9
1230 PM
1944

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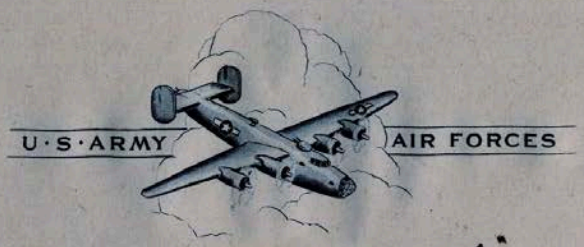
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Letter 5



7:45 P.M.

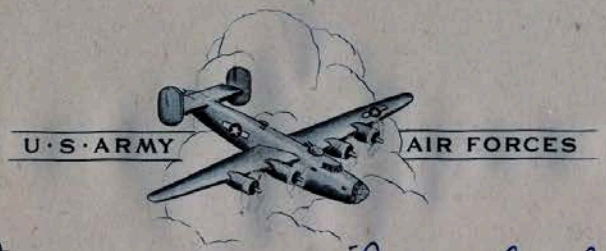


Sunday night
October 15, 1944

Dearest Mom + Pop;

Sweethearts, I'll warn you in advance that this isn't going to be much of a letter as all our mail is censored + there is very little we can say or talk about. I can tell you that in still in the U.S. on the ~~east~~ coast but not in Mitchel Field anymore. Its nice here [redacted] I'm really enjoying it. The rough part is that we (the crew) pulled K.P. as soon as we got here. It was only for 5 hours + not hard as Ken + I were the non-commissioned officers in charge + we didn't have any work to do. There were 3 other crews besides ours + therefore there was plenty of men + it made it a lot easier on everybody.

2.



I'm writing on one side only because if the censor has to cut something out he won't ruin both sides. It's awfully hard to find anything to say because of censorship but I am well and fine & think of you often. Just don't worry about me, even if it's quite a long time between some of my letters. It will be that way only because it will be impossible to write. Write me here from now on & I'll get it O.K. My new address is - Cpl. James F. Jeter, - 38546738, - A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1, C/O Postmaster, New York, N.Y. I'll get all mail sent here & I'm still getting Charleston & Mitchel mail. One thing, a soldiers mail always catches up sooner or later.

I thank you both for the money you gave me when I was home & it was more than enough to keep me

2.



ticket as it was only $27.00. Spent quite a bit of money in New York seeing the sites but I wont have much use for money for a spell yet. If I ever ask for money send it cash in a registered letter because that's about the only way that's sure I'll get it.

Hope you both are getting along & not worrying about me because I'm swell. I know this isn't much of a letter but I had to let you know my new address & that I'm well & progressing nicely. I will write you every chance I get & tell you all I can, which won't be to much but the main thing is to let you know I well. Write me what you like as your mail isn't censored, but be sure to write everychance you get as I'll have a very special admiration for mail "over there". Remember your son loves you with all his heart & always will. Your same love

James Frenell

Letter 5

Cpl. James F. Jeter - 38546988
A.P.D. 166H3-IQ-1
% Post Master N.Y, N.Y.

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
Orange, Texas

Censored by
F/O J.P. Cherney

Page 1

U.S. Army Air Forces Letterhead

7:45 P.M.

Sunday night
October 15, 1944

Dearest Mom + Pop;
Sweethearts, I'll warn you in advance that this isn't going to be much of a letter as all our mail is censored + there is very little we can say or talk about. I can tell you that in still in the U.S. on the east coast but in Mitchel Field any-more. Its nice here (cut out by censor)

I'm really enjoying it. The rough part is that we (the crew) pulled K.P. as soon as we got here. It was only for 5 hours + not hard as Ken + I were the non-commissioned officers in charge + we didn't have any work to do. The were 3 other crews besides ours + therefore there was plenty of men + it made it a lot easier on everybody.

Page 2

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censor has to cut something out he won't
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anything to say because of censorship but
I am well and fine + think of you often.
Just don't worry about me, even if its
quite a long time between some of my
letters. It will be that way only because
it will be impossible to write. Write me
here from now on + I'll get it O.K. My
new address is - Cpl James F. Jeter,-
38546738, - A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1, % Postmast,
New York, N.Y. I'll get all mail sent here +
I'm still getting Charleston + Mitchel mail.
One thing, a soldiers mail always catches
up sooner or later.
(Cut out by censor)

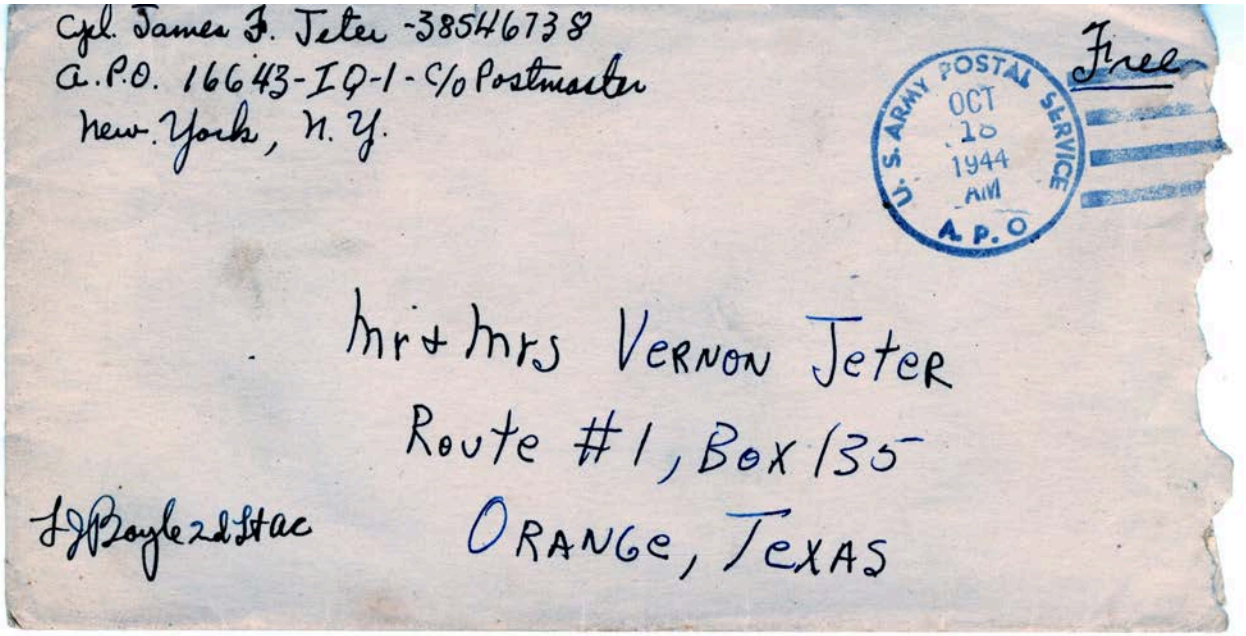
I thank you both for the
money you gave me when I was home +
it was more than enough to buy my

Page 3

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bit of money in New York seeing the sites
but I won't have much use for money for a
spell yet. If I even ask for money send it cash
in a registered letter because thats about
the only way thats sure I'll get it.
hope you both are getting along + not
worrying about me because I'm swell.
I know this isn't much of a letter but I
had to let you know my new address +
that I'm well + progressing nicely. I will
write you every chance I get + tell you
all I can, which won't be to much but
the main thing is to let you know I
well. Write me what you like as your
mail isn't censored, but be sure to write
everychance you get as I'll have a very

special admiration for mail “over there”.
Remember your son loves you with all
his heart + always will. Your same son
James Ferrell

Letter 6


Cpl. James B. Jeter -38546738
A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1-C/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Free

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
OCT
10
1944
AM
A.P.O.

Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
ORANGE, TEXAS

J J Boyle 2d Lt AC



Tuesday evening
October 17, 1944

Dear Mom & Pop;

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still here on the east coast and doing O.K.. Dont know how long I will be here and if I did I would not be able to tell you. I just want you to rest easy and above all dont worry aboutme. This is a swell camp and even though we cant get off the field there are plenty of things to do with our spare time. There is about four or five theaters on the post and a differant picture at each one so we can always go to a show if there is not anything special going on elsewhere.

I will bet my first letter to you was cut to pieces because it will take me several letters to catch on to what I can and what I cant write. Dont worry about it though because if it was cut out it really did not mean much but just something that I should not have put in. About all I can write about here is the past, not even supposed to talk about the weather or anything lide that. After I get across I will be able to tell you a lot I cant tell you here because when a shipment is to leave it pays to go to extremes to guarentee their safe trip and I am one who wont argue with them about that because the safer it is the better I will like it. Sarty is the first rule for our crew and we will all come back a lot better off and a lot quicker than some of these guys that dont seem to give a darn for anything. Just you two darlings keep your chins up and dont worry about me as I will be back home safe and sound before you know it. I dont mind going across at all if it wasnt for leaving tht parents and wife I love so very much. Since I have to do it anyway, I figure the best thing to do is to go ahead and make the best of it, take care of myself, try to have as good a time as possible and get our missions in and get back to the ones I love and adore with all my heart and then we can have one big extended vacation for a while, you know, kinda make up for lost time. Does that



sound as good to you as it does to me? Gee, if it was over now it wouldnt be any to early to please me.

How is everything back there in Orange? I guess that its getting pretty cool this time of year. Ill bet the duck and squirrell hunting will be good this year. Be sure to let me know how the hunting is this fall. Maybe those shells I got will come in handy about this time if you can manage to get a little time off to use them. Has it turned to cool to stop your fishing yet? Gee, its been so long since I wet a hook and I sure wish it was so I could now. I have certainly seen some beautiful water and country for fishing and hunting in my travels the past few months. Just the last couple of mornings I Have seen at least a dozen great big fox squirrels here on the post and boy it surd did make me remember and long for the times wh have been hunting and all the swell times we have had. Some of these days before we know it we are going to be doing all that over again.

I know this isnt much of a letter but with the tight censorship we have here it makes it awfully hard to get much into a letter. The main purpose of these letters is to let you know that I am still well and as happy as I could be away from the ones he loves so very much. My health is perfect and I couldnt feel better or be in any better spirits under the conditions. Write me at my A.P.O. number from now on and you can be sure that I will get every letter that you write. I hope you are getting my letters o.k. such as they are but I know that you understand the conditions and would want it that way for the safty of all concerned.

I havent gotten any mail since we got here but as far as that goes neither has anyone else. The Mail to Mitchel Field hasnt been sent down yet and we havent been here long enough to get mail form home. Hope you are getting mine all right but do not worry if they stop because our mail will be tied up for a while befoe long. Tell all the Broussards I said hello and I will see them again before to long. I will write you every chance I get and tell you what little news I can without going against the censors rules*- gee I sure would hate to have his job I know he really runs into a lot of stuff but I wouldnt put anything in a letter on purpose but I will have to have a little pracitce before I can get it down right. Just you remember that your son loves you

Your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 6

Cpl James F. Jeter - 38546738
A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1- % Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
Orange, Texas

LJ Boyle 2nd St A C

U.S. Army Postal Service
Oct 18
1944
AM
A.P.O.

Page 1

Tuesday Evening
October 17, 1944

Dear Mom & Pop;

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still here on the east coast and doing O.K.. Dont know how long I will be here and if I did I would not be able to tell you. I just want you to rest easy and above all dont worry about me. This is a swell camp and even though we cant get off the field there are plenty of things to do with our spare time. There is about four or five theaters on the post and a different picture at each one so we can always go to a show if there is not anything special going on elsewhere.

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and I am one who wont argue with them about that because the safer it is the better I will like it. Sarty (Safety?) is the first rule for our crew and we will all come back a lot better off and a lot quicker than some of these guys that dont seem to give a darn for anything. Just you two darlings keep your chin up and dont worry about me as I will be back home safe and sound before you know it. I dont mind going across at all if it wasnt for leaving tht parents and wife I love so very much. Since I have to do it anyway, I figure the best thing to do it to go ahead and make the best of it, take care of myself, try to have as good a time as possible and get our missions in and get back to the ones I love and adore with all my heart and then we can have one big extended vacation for a while, you know, kinda make up for lost time. Does that

Page 2

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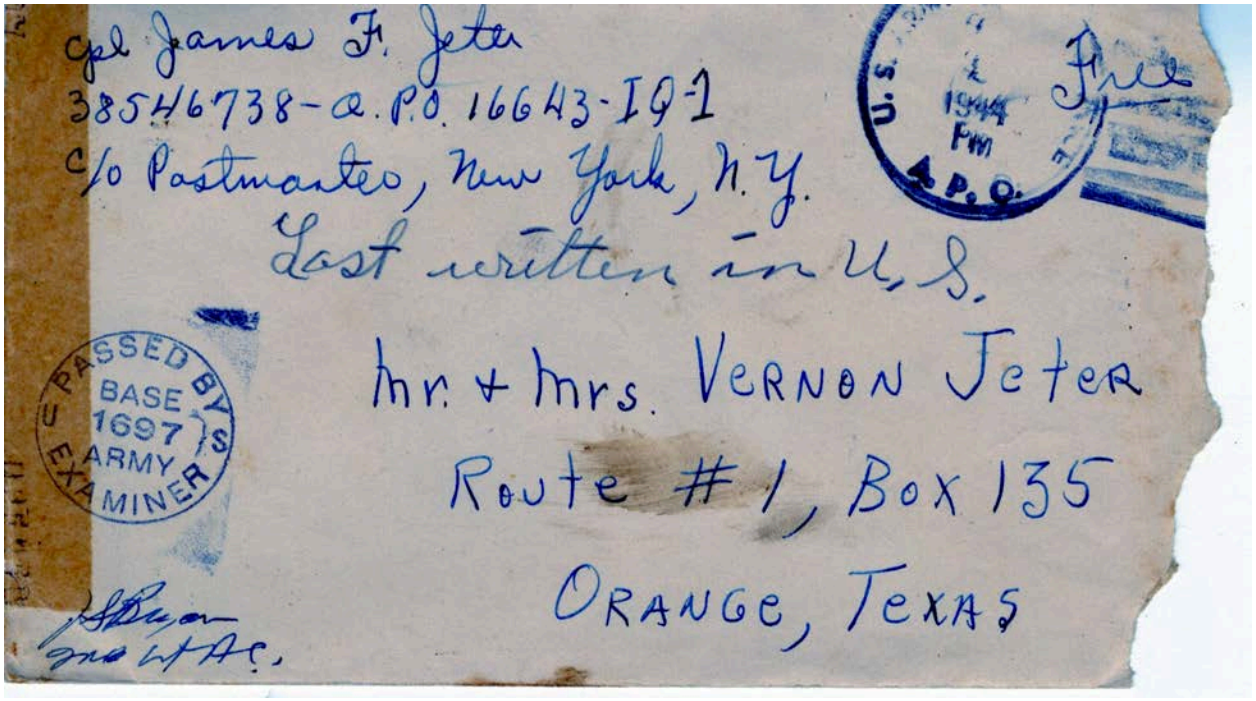
get every letter that you write. I hope you are getting my letters o.k. such as they are but I know that you understand the conditions and would want it that way for the safety of all concerned.

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Your same son,

James Ferrell

Letter 7


Cpl James F. Jeter
38546738-A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1
C/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.
Last written in U.S.
Mr. & Mrs. VERNON Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
ORANGE, TEXAS
U.S.
1944
PM
A.P.O.
Free
PASSED BY
BASE
1697
ARMY
EXAMINER

SERVICE CLUB
U. S. ARMY

Friday night
Oct. 20, 1944 - 10 P.M

Dearest Mom + Pop,

Just a few fast lines as that is all the time I have, to let you know that I am still around + kicking. I just wanted you to know that I am thinking of you and love you with all my heart.

Haven't done a whole lot to-day but it's rained pretty hard most of the day and it's been pretty much of an indoors day. We played cards, talked + slept most of the day with a couple of details on top of it.

From now on when you two write me using my A. P. O number

SERVICE CLUB
U. S. ARMY

send all letters air mail with only 6¢ air Mail stamps + buy some of those special air mail envelopes. I will get mail much faster that way and I'll very likely write you the same way when I have the stamps. Just don't worry one bit if my letters are late as it will be harder to get mail as time goes on.

Just keep your chin up, be brave and don't worry and everything will be O.K. Say your prayers for me each night for our speedy return and a quick return of all the boys + the end of this bloody mess. I do love you so.

your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 7

Cpl James F. Jeeter
38546738 - A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1
% Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

Last written in U.S.

Mr. + Mrs. Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
Orange, Texas

Passed by U.S. Examiner
Base 1697 Army

1944
PM
A.P.O.

Service Club U.S. Army Letter Head

Page 1

Friday night
Oct. 20, 1944 - 10 P.M.

Dearest Mom + Pop;
Just a few fast lines as that is all the time I have, to let you know that I am still around + kicking. I just wanted you to know that I am thinking of you and love you with all my heart.
Haven't done a whole lot to-day but its rained pretty hard most of the day and its been pretty much of an indoors day. We played cards, talked + slept most of the day with a couple of details on top of it.
From now on when you two write me using my A.P.O. number

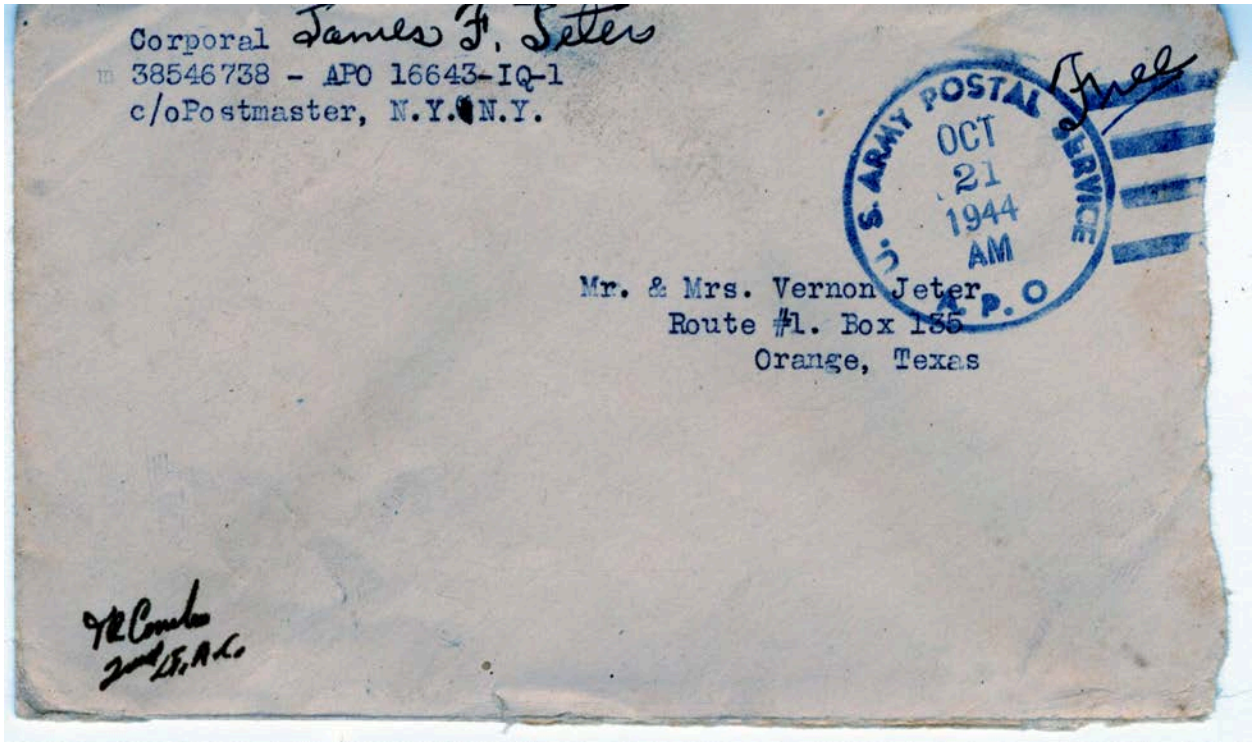
Page 2

send all letters air mail with only
6 (cents) air mail stamps + buy some of
those special air mail envelopes. I
will get mail much faster that
way and I'll very likely write
you the same way when I have
the stamps. Just don't worry one
bit if my letters are late as it
will be harder to get mail as
time goes on.

Just keep your chins up, be
brave and don't worry and every-
thing will be O.K. Say your prayers
for me each night for our
speedy return and a quick return
of all the boys + the end of this
bloody mess. I do love you so.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 8



Corporal James F. Jeter
38546738 - APO 16643-IQ-1
c/oPostmaster, N.Y. N.Y.

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
OCT
21
1944
AM
A.P.O

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Jeter
Route #1. Box 135
Orange, Texas

R.R. Combs
2nd Lt. A.C.

Thursday night
October 19, 1944
10:00 P.M.

Dearest Mom and Pop,

Even though I dont have much to say or to write you about I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that I am thinking of you. I am in the Orderley Room using the typewritter and doming a bad job of it at that. There is a poker game going on in the room and I can hardly think above the noise the guys ar makine in their efforts to take the other fellows money.

I recieved one of your letter that was sent down from Mitchel Field and I really did enjoy it as it was the second one I had gotten from you two wonderful folks since I left Charleston a couple of weeks back. Mail is certainly a wonderful thing and your letter did a good job of building my moral up and I can understand that you would like to get my letters just as much as I do yours. I will write you every chance I get even if I do not have much to tell you because just getting a letter with some kind of printing on it helps out an awful lot. Dont you two worry about not writing right on the day as I know just how hard it is to find time to write when a person is as busy as you have been for some time now.

hardly realize that we have left, you wont know when we leave because even if I knew myself I wouldnt be abel to tell you for very obvious reasons. I just ask that you two not worry a single minute about any of us on the crew as we will be back very darned soon.

I thank you both for the offer of the money or anything else that I might need and if I need it I will let you know but I dont think that I will at least I hope that I wont. I thank you over and over again for the swell short visit I had and the money you gave and I appreciate it form the bottom of my heart because you are the best Mom and Pop in the whole world.

This isnt much of a letter I know and I knew that it wouldnt be when I started but I just wanted you to know that I love you and think of you all the time and that I am well and happy. Write me whenever you get the chance and I will do the some because I guess that my letters mean about the same to you as the letters I get from you mean to me. Just you remember that I am the some son that left for the army last January and I always will be.

Your same loving son,

James Ferrell

James Ferrell

I love you two so much!

Letter 8

Corporal Jame F. Jeter
38546738 - APO 16643-IQ-1
% Postmaster, N.Y, N.Y.

Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1 Box 135
Orange, Texas

TR Combs
2nd D.A.D.

U.S. Army Postal Service
Oct
21
1944
AM
A.P.O.

Page 1

Thursday night
October 12, 1944
10:00 P.M.

Dearest Mom and Pop,

Even though I dont have much to say or to write you about I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that I am thinking of you. I am in the Orderly Room using the typewriter and doing a bad job of it at that. There is a poker game going on in the room and I can hardly think above the noise the guys are making in their efforts to take the other fellows money.

I received one of your letter that was sent down from Mitchel Field and I really did enjoy it as it was the second one I had gotten from you two wonderful folks since I left Charleston a couple of weeks back. Mail is certainly a wonderful thing and you letter did a good job of building my moral up and I can understand that you would like to get my letters just as much as I do yours. I will write you every chance I get even if I do not have much to tell you because just getting a letter with some kind of printing on it helps out an awful lot. Dont you two worry about not writing right on the day as

I know just how hard it is to find time to write when a
person is as busy as you have been for some time now.

Page 2 - missing (maybe from the censor)

Page 3

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leave because even if I knew myself I wouldnt be able to
tell you for very obvious reasons. I just ask that you
two not worry a single minute about any of us on the crew
as we will be back very darned soon.

I thank you both for the offer of the money or anything
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I thank you over and over again for the swell short visit
I had and the money you gave and I appreciate it form the
bottom on my heart because you are the best Mom and Pop
in the whole world.

This isnt much of a letter I know and I knew that it
wouldnt be when I started but I just wanted you to know
that I love you and think of you all the time and that I
am well and happy. Write me whenever you get the chance
and I will do the some because I guess that my letters mean
about the same to you as the letters I get from
you mean to me. Just you remember that I am the some son
that left for the army last January and I always will be.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

I love you two so
much!

Letter 9



FROM: Cpl. James F. Jeter
38546738 - A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1
C/O Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

AIR MAIL

V ···— MAIL

First

TO:
Mr. + Mrs. Vernon Jeter
~~Route #1, Box 135~~
Orange, Texas
814 R- Summit Rd

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 BASE 0514 ARMY EXAMINER

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mr & Mrs VERNON Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
ORANGE, TEXAS

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM
Cpl. James F. Jeter
38546738-A.P.O. 16643 19-1
C/O Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Mom & Pop;

This is the first letter I've written since I left the states a [redacted] ago and even now as I write, I know it will be a long time before I can mail it. I'm writing this so you will know I thought of you so often & that I arrived safely. This is the fastest means of communication but I'm writing a more detailed letter, by plain air mail. We are on a boat crossing the [redacted] to gosh knows where and naturally it takes quite a long time. I'm enjoying myself as well as could be expected and haven't gotten seasick yet and don't guess I will after going this long. I know one thing - there is a lot of water in the [redacted] ocean & I've seen lots of it. Saw my first flying fish the other day & got a thrill out of that. I'm in perfect physical condition & getting fat from lack of work. There isn't much to do aboard ship but sleep, read and play cards. I sure would appreciate it if you would send me a few 6¢ air mail stamps because I'll have to write airmail or my letters will never get home. Just don't worry about me and write every chance you get and I'll do the same. I love you both very much.

James Ferrell

NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V···—MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 (4—28143-5

Letter 9

Cpl James F. Jeter
38546738 - A.P.O. 16643-IQ-1
% Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

Air Mail

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135 – 814 R. Turrett Rd
Orange, Texas

Army Postal Service
Nov 10
1944
700
A.P.O

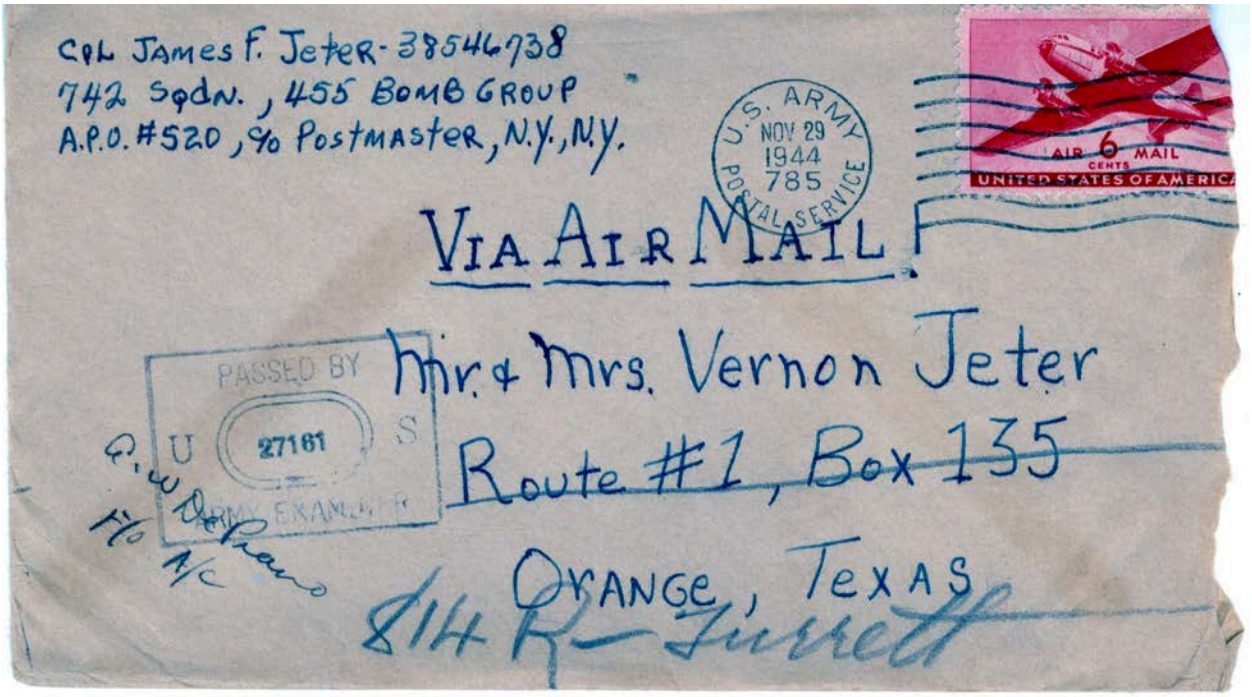
Page 1

Passed by Examiner
BASE
0514
ARMY
(Censor's stamp)

Dear Mom + Pop;
This is the first letter I've written since I left the states a (censored) ago and even now as I write, I know it will be a long time before I can mail it. I'm writing this so you will know I thought of you so often + that I arrived safely. This is the fastest means of communication but I'm writing a more detailed letter, by plain air mail. We are on a boat crossing the (censored) to gosh knows where and naturally it takes quite a long time. I'm enjoying myself as well as could be expected and haven't gotten seasick yet and don't guess I will after going this long. I know one thing - there is a lot of water in the (censored) ocean + I've seen lots of it. Saw my first flying fish the other day + got a thrill out of that. I'm in perfect physical condition + getting fat from lack of work. There isn't much to do aboard ship but sleep, read and play cards. I sure would appreciate it if you would send me a few 6 (cent) air mail stamps because I'll have to write airmail or my letters will never get home. Just don't worry about me and write every chance you get and I'll do the same. I love you both very much.

James Ferrell

Letter 10


Cpl James F. Jeter-38546738
742 Sqdn., 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520, % Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
NOV 29
1944
785
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA AIR MAIL
PASSED BY
U 27161 S
ARMY EXAMINER
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135
Orange, Texas

Somewhere in Italy
November 25, 1944

Dear Mom & Pop;

Just a few lines tonight to let you both know I'm still well and much happier. We are now settled down for a change and won't be moving around all over heck for quite a while. I'm now a part of the 15th Air Force stationed in Italy. My correct address is as follows Cpl. James F. Jeter
38546138-742 Sqdn.
455 Bomb Grp. A.P.O. #520
C/o Postmaster, N. Y., N. Y.
Send all my mail like this and you can be certain I'll get it in good time. Its a lot better here than any place I've been overseas and I'm going to like it a lot all the Squadron's officers are really swell and the other fellows in our group are really nice, they go out of their way to help us get settled and we really do appreciate it to. We live in tents and we have the stuff, tools and privilidge to fix it as we like so we will have a lot of fun building

2.

our new home. We have gotten our stove all fixed up and it works pretty darn good, it throws off enough heat that we have to turn it down real low or it will get so hot it will run us out of the tent. We will have to get us some kerosene lamps in town after we get paid before we can have good light. The field officer is going to have a brick floor and 3 ft. stone wall built for our tent and we will fix ourselves private writing table, lockers, clothes closets and wash basins. It will be a lot of fun fixing it up because its going to be our home for about six months and we want to fix it nice, kinda' take pride in it.

We haven't done much yet, just getting acquainted with the field and shown our way around, will let you know when we start our missions. We have to fly 35 missions before we finish and then we can come home so naturally

we are all kind of eager to get started. I can promise you that there isn't near as much to worry about as you think, they haven't seen a Naze airplane in a long time. Will let you know when I fly my first mission. Was given the Apuca, Italy, Germany campaign ribbon with a bronze star today, will let you know any other deployments because I know you are hungry for news. We haven't received any more mail yet but we should any day now. All our A.P.O. 16643 mail goes to another place + has to be sent on here but all my A.P.O. # 520 will come directly to our squadron here. I hope you are getting my mail good because I know mail means as much to you as it does me - and I love it.

How is everything going with you two? Guess you have found a new place by now but I guess my mail

will be forwarded O.K. How is the deal for the place at Carthage holding out, any trouble yet? I hope you rented the place at Longview to Mrs Hara I believe her name is, she seemed like an awfully nice lady. How is the squirrell hunting dad? Guess you got the bacon, sure would like to have some good fried squirrel and banana pudding of yours now, its the best in the world, sure miss my home cookin'. Do the 12 hours, 7 days per week getting you down Dad? Be sure and write often and tell your son who loves his folks with all his heart all the late news, I'll keep writing as regular as I possibly can cause I love you both. Just be brave & strong, say your prayers, keep busy (as usual) and I'll be home before you know it. Will always let you know how I'm getting along and the news. Always loving you,
your son, James Ferrell

Letter 10

Cpl James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn, 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520, % Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr and Mrs Vernon Jeter
Route #1, Box 135 - 814 R - Turrett
Orange, Texas

Passed by US
Army Examiner
27161

U.S. Army Postal Service
Nov 29
1944
785

Page 1

Somewhere in Italy
November 25, 1944

Dear Mom + Pop;
Just a few lines tonight to let you both know I'm still well and much happier. We are now settled down for a change and won't be moving around all over heck for quite a while. I'm now a part of the 15th Air Force stationed in Italy. My correct address is as follows:
Cpl James F. Jeter
38546738 - 742 Sgdn
455 Bomb Grp. A.P.O. #520
% Postmaster, N.Y., N.Y.

Send all my mail like this and you can be certain I'll get it in good time. Its a lot better here than any place I've been overseas and I'm going to like it a lot all the Squadron's officers are really swell and

the other fellows in our group are really nice, they go out of their way to help us get settled and we really do appreciate it to. We live in tents and we have the stuff, tools and privelidge to fix it as we like so we will have a lot of fun building

Page 2

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We haven't done much yet, just getting acquainted with the field and shown our way around, will let you know when we start our missions. We have to fly 35 missions before we finish and then we can come back home so naturally

Page 3

we are all kind of eager to get started. I can promise you that there isn't near as much to worry about as you think, they haven't seen a Nazi airplane in a long time. Will let you know when I fly my first mission. Was given the Africa, Italy, Germany campaign ribbon with a bronze star today, will let you know any other developments because I know you are hungry for news. We haven't

recieved any more mail yet but we should
any day now. All our A.P.O 16643 mail
goes to another place + has to be sent on
here but all my A.P.O. #520 will come
directly to our squadron here. I hope
you are getting my mail good because
I know mail means as much to
you as it does me - and I love it.
  How is everything going with you
two? Guess you have found a new
place by now but I guess my mail

Page 4

will be forwarded O.K. How is the deal
for the place at Carthage holding out,
any trouble yet? I hope you rented
the place at Longview to Mrs. Hara
I believe her name is, she seemed
like an awfully nice lady. How is
the squirrell hunting dad? Guess you
got the bacon, sure would like to have
some good fried squirrel and banana
pudding of yours mom, its the best in
the world, sure miss my home cookin'.
Is the 12 hours, 7 days per week getting
you down Dad? Be sure and write
often and tell your son who loves his
folks with all his heart all the late
news, I'll keep writing as regular
as I possibly can cause I love you
both. Just be brave + strong, say your
prayers, keep busy (as usual) and I'll
be home before you know it. WIll
always let you know how I'm getting
along and the news. Always loving you,
your son, James Ferrell.

Letter 11

December 5, 1944
Tuesday night
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Mom & Pop,

Just a short letter as this is my last sheet of paper but I'll start on the prowl tomorrow for more, its sure scarce.

Am enclosing a Xmas card from all the crew and all our best, very best wishes go with it. I especially send all my love and appreciation to two of the grandest parents in the whole world and hope this will be our last one so far apart. My God bless you and keep you well and safe and not let you worry about your son in Italy.

Dad, I hope your birthday is a happy one and I'd give $50.00 if I could only send you something, a card even but believe me, your

birthday isn't forgotten. I hope you have oodles of more birthdays, all of them very happy ones and that I can celebrate every one with you. I received your Thanksgiving card today and it was beautiful, especially so to me because I knew the thought and love that were behind it, we do have lots to be thankful for.

Hope you receive this mail at your new address, your card said you were moving soon, the card was all the mail I got but you will never realize what it meant to me - I do love & miss you so so very much. I'll write again very soon, a V-mail tomorrow in fact and air mail when I get me some paper. Hope you are getting my mail good, know you like mail as much as I. I'm in perfect health & safe as a bug in a rug, please don't worry about me, cause I love you so very much! Your same loving son,

James Ferrell.

Letter 11

Page 1

December 5, 1944
Tuesday night
Somewhere in Italy

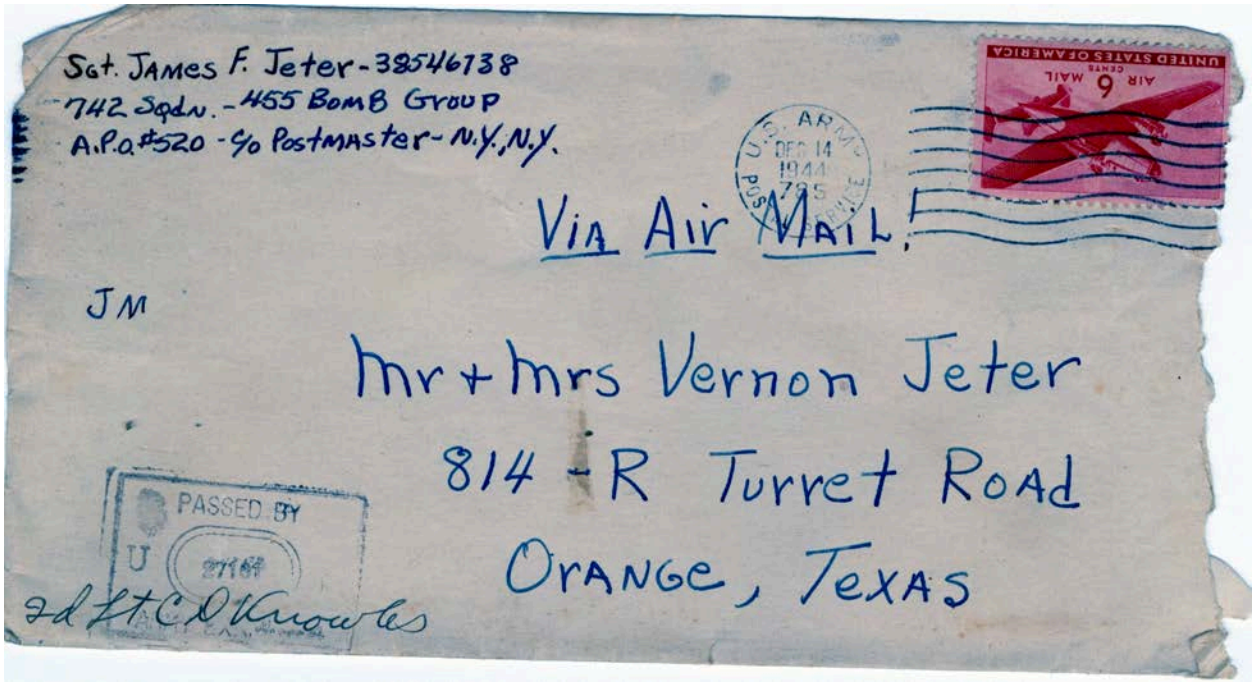
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Hope you recieve this mail at your new address, your card said you were moving soon, the card was all the mail I got but you will never realize what it meant to me - I do love + miss you to so very much. I'll write

again very soon, a V-mail tomorrow
in fact and air mail when I get me
some paper. Hope you are getting my
mail good, know you like mail as
much as I. I'm in perfect health +
safe as a bug in a rug, please don't
worry about me, cause I love you
so very much! Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 12


Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
DEC 14
1944
POST OFFICE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
Via Air Mail
JM
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas
PASSED BY
2d Lt C O Knowles

December 11, '44
Tuesday nite

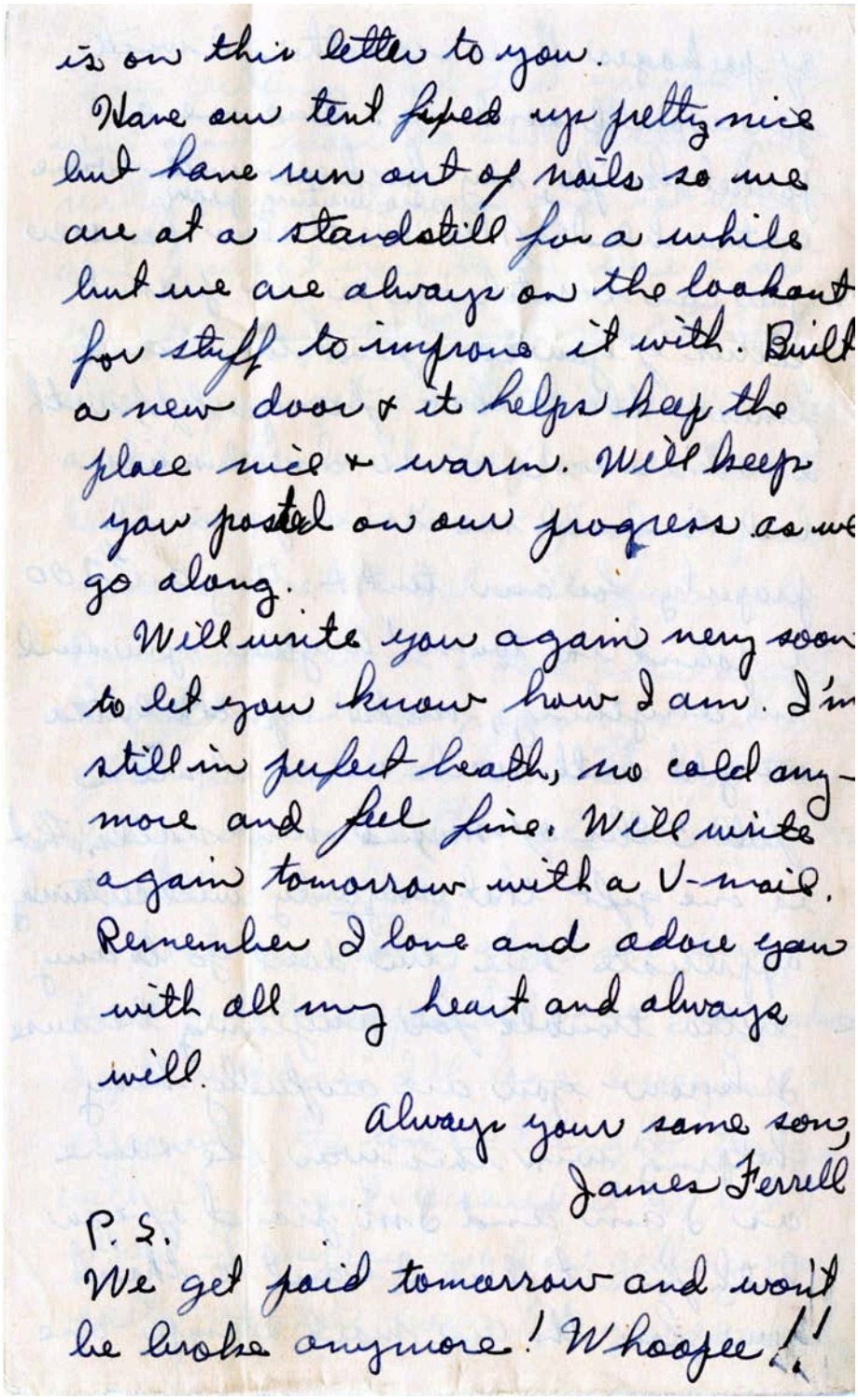
My dearest Mom & Pop;

am scribbling you a few lines on some make shift paper but it will serve the purpose, hope you can read this hen scratching.

Recieved your letter written Nov. 23 and I'm so glad you have heard from me. I know it was a relief & I hope you continue to get my mail regularly. Yes, sweethearts, we did have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. You were right about the time and place, exactly right and I'm glad it didn't worry you. I am reading my bible and have a book of scriptures & prayers that are real good. I'm enclosing a picture of Christ that was with it, though you would like it - I think its very nice.

I'm certainly glad that you all like your new place so well, know you really enjoy the gas and hot water and I want you to be sure & fix the place up at Longview like that when you get back. Guess you sleep a lot better with the peace and quiet don't you, dad? Know you are glad you can still get milk from the Brunsvads, wish I had about a gallon myself right now, sure miss it. I'm glad you rented the house to the O'Hara lady, by her letter she seemed like a real nice lady.

Don't you worry about me being the least bit disappointed over any package I get because I'll love everyone, & especially the love & thoughts that go with it. Haven't received it yet but I expect it anyday as I'm getting mail pretty regular now. Oh yes, speaking of packages there something I wish you would send me. Send me a pocket knife, my hacksaw with some extra blades, the also writing paper, oldest clothes hangers you can scratch up, a few peanut butters if you can find them and finish the 5 lbs - if any left with 2 or 2½ inch nails. I need nails bad to build me some personal property for our tent & they are $2.00 a pound in town! Anytime you send me anything, make up the extra weight with nails or send me a full 5 lbs of mixed new nails. That is one gift that anybody will certainly appreciate here but don't go to any extra trouble for anything because I know you are awfully busy helping win this war the same as I am and I'm proud of you both for it. Also I want to thank you for the air mail stamps - one



is on this letter to you.
Have our tent fixed up pretty nice but have run out of nails so we are at a standstill for a while but we are always on the lookout for stuff to improve it with. Built a new door & it helps keep the place nice & warm. Will keep you posted on our progress as we go along.
Will write you again very soon to let you know how I am. I'm still in perfect health, no cold anymore and feel fine. Will write again tomorrow with a V-mail. Remember I love and adore you with all my heart and always will.

Always your same son,
James Ferrell

P. S.
We get paid tomorrow and won't be broke anymore! Whoopee!!

Letter 12

Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group

A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by Lt C.D. Knowles

U.S. Army Postal Service
Dec 14
1944
785

Page 1

December 11, ‘44
Tuesday nite

My dearest Mom + Pop;
Am scribbling you a few lines on some make shift paper but it will serve the purpose, hope you can read this hen scratching.
Received your letter written Nov. 23 and I’m so glad you have heard from me. I know it was a relied + I hope you continue to get my mail regularly. Yes, sweethearts, we did have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. You were right about the time and place, exactly right and I’m glad it didn’t worry you. I am reading my bible and have a book of scriptures + prayers that are real good. I’m enclosing a picture of Christ that was with it, though you would like it. I think its very nice.

Page 2

I’m certainly glad that you all like your new place so well, know you really enjoy the gas and hot water

and I want you to be sure + fix
the place up at Longview like that
when you get back. Guess you sleep
a lot better with the peace and quiet
don't you, dad? Know you are glad
you can still get milk from the
Braussards, wish I had about a gallon
myself right now, sure miss it I'm
glad you rented the house to the O'Hara
lady, by her letter she seemed like
a real nice lady.
Don't you worry about me being the
least bit disappointed over any packages
I get because I'll love everyone, +
especially the love + thoughts that go
with it. Haven't received it yet but I
expect it anyday as I'm getting mail
pretty regular now. Oh yes, speaking

Page 3

of packages theres something I wish
you would send me. Send me a
pocket knife, my hacksaw with some
extra blades, - also writing paper, the oldest claw hammer
you can scratch up, a few peanut
patties if you can find them and
finish the 5 lbs - if any left, with
2 or 2 ½ inch nails. I need nails
bad to build me some personal
property for our tent + they are $2.00
a pound in town! ANytime you send
me anything, make up the extra
weight with nails or send me a
full 5 lbs of mixed new nails. That
is one gift that anybody will certainly
appreciate here but don't go to any
extra trouble for anything because
I know you are awfully busy
helping win this war the same
as I am and I'm proud of you
both for it. Also I want to thank
you for the air mail stamp - one

Page 4

is on this letter to you.
Have our tent fixed up pretty nice
but have run out of nails so we
are at a standstill for a while
but we are always on the lookout
for stuff to improve it with. Built
a new door + warm. Will keep
you posted on our progress as we
go along.
Will write you again very soon
to let you know how I am. I'm
still in perfect health, no cold any-
more and feel fine. Will write
again tomorrow with a V-mail.
Remember I love and adore you
with all my heart and always
will.

Always your same son,
James Ferrell.

P.S.
We get paid tomorrow and won't
be broke anymore! Whoopee!!

Letter 13


Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
DEC 19
1944
7 8 5
POSTAL SERVICE
U.S.
6¢
AIR MAIL
Via Air Mail!
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas
PASSED BY
U
27161
S
G.I. Co. De Peaks
at Mc

1.

Thursday night
December 14, 1944
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Mom & Pops;

Well, howse the two sweetest people in the world to-day? Hope you are both happy and feeling as well and healthy as I am because I feel swell. Course I am a little sore from a football game we played yesterday but thats nothing as I'll get over that easily. We play football every once in a while to keep in good shape but this game was a pretty fierce one and the ground was slick and we slipped all over the place. Damp green grass can really be slick and we had a lot of fun, four of us played the four officers + it was quite a game and we beat them 18-0 and did we razzle them.

2.

Things are still about the same with me and the rest of the fellows here and we are all getting along swell. The tent is fixed up pretty nice but after we finished our new door we are out of lumber and nails so our work is at a standstill for a while. Boy, nails and tools are really hard to get around here and a fellow has to scratch + scratch to get them. If I can get the stuff I want to build me a nice writing desk and a clothes closet, I will keep you posted on how things go with the building of our tent.

I'm feeling a lot better as far as moral is concerned because I have started getting mail directly here to the base instead of my old A.P.O. number. I've received two from you in the last two days and it took them only 8 or 9 days to get

3.

from Marshall here and that's darn good. I haven't received any of yours direct yet but I expect to get one any day now. I have been getting your mail real regular and I really do enjoy them, I appreciate a letter from home on a package more than you can possibly imagine. I am so glad that you are getting my letters regularly and I hope you will continue to get them that way because I know letters mean as much to you two as they do to me + I love them. Just keep up the good work + I promise to do the same. Paper being as short as it is I have to make out with makeshift paper but maybe you can read it O.K. I don't get to write my sweet parents as often as I would like to but gee, news is a mighty scarce item around here but if you two are like me, just a few lines

letting me know you are well and are getting along fine means the world! Be sure to send me the local news as you always have.

How's the weather around there at this time? Hope it isn't as bad and rainy as it was when Jos and I were there. We four certainly did have a wonderful Christmas that year didn't we? I hope this Xmas was as pleasant as that one and that the coming year will be a prosperous and victorious one for us all and that we will soon be together again and for every Christmas to come. It will very likely be another day for me and we will probably "work" but our co-pilot, Jimmy Bryan has a couple of quarts of american whiskey so the ten of us will probably get together for a few drinks and some songs and a good time

5.

in general. Right here and now sweethearts, I want to promise and tell you something and its the truth, I thinks you know that. I'll admit that I have taken a few drinks since I came into the army but I've never, and I never will drink enough to even feel it. Its mostly about three bottles of beer per week because that's what our weekly ration here is. Once in a while the six enlisted men here in our tent buy a bottle of champaign and we split that. The point I want you to see is, that I don't ever want you two to worry about your son ever drinking or becoming a drunkard because you know I'll never do that. I know how you feel about drinks & I know how Dot feels about it, she wouldn't stand for it either and I love you three to much to ever do anything like that to hurt you and I

6.

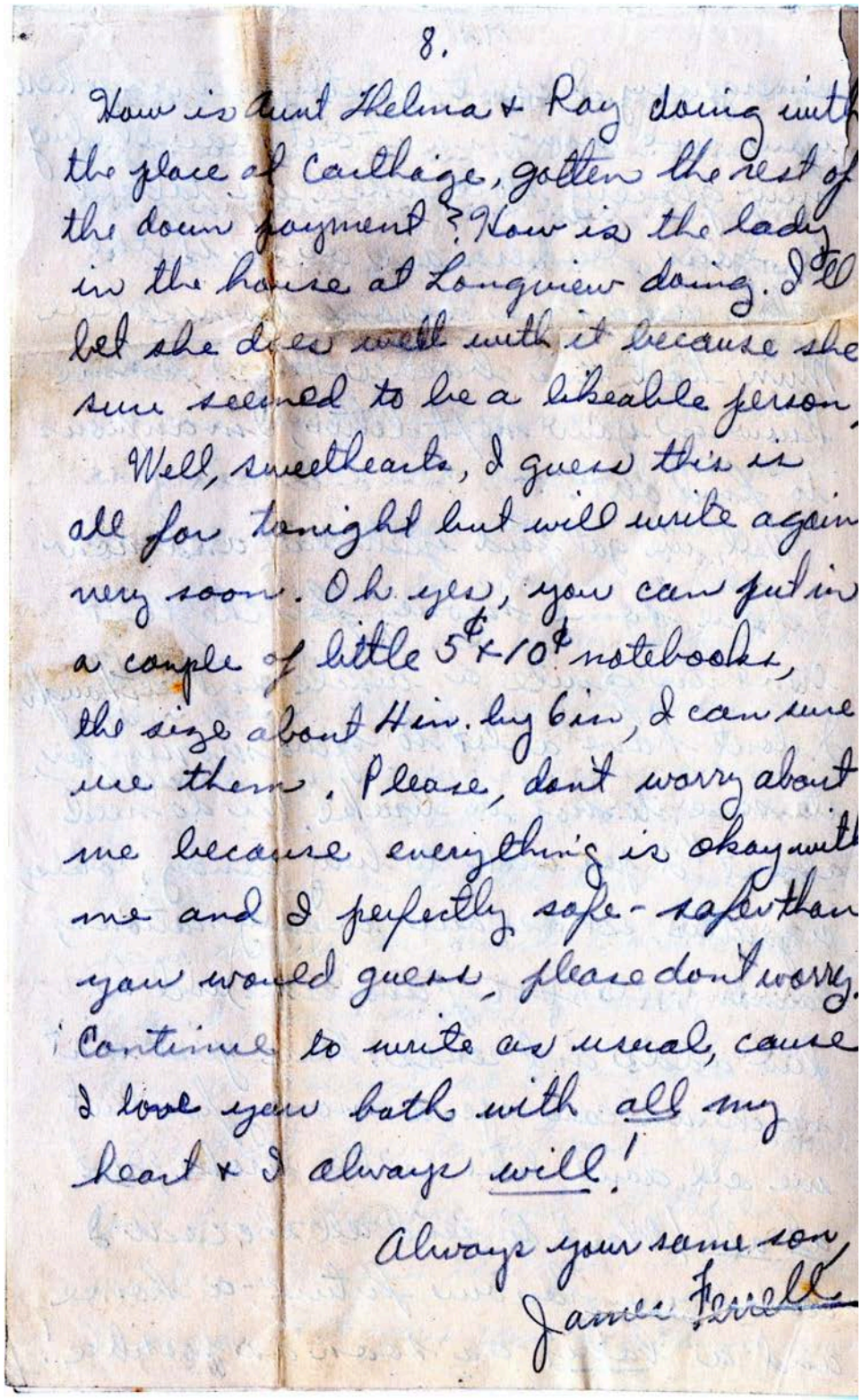
believe you know that I speak the truth when I say that. Be sure to tell me exactly how you feel about it because I'm anxious to know.

How do you all like your new place by this time. I'll bet you like it more everyday, especially the cooking facilities, ice box and the peace and quiet. I'll bet it's not near as hard on you to cook and keep house now is it Mom? I just hope you aren't doing Aunt Thelma's also because you aren't in any shape to do it. Dad, I'll bet you sleep a lot better there and also that you don't have nearly as much trouble getting to and from work. I doubt if you have a garage so I suppose the little Ford has to sit out, hope you don't have trouble with it this winter. Its nice that you live close enough that you can walk in an

7.

emergency. I can't exactly picture where you live now, is it out near the big new grocery store where we talked to your leaderman or is it the other addition across from where Mum had his barber shop? Let me know in your next letter, I'm anxious to find out.

Well, we got paid yesterday and now I have some money for the first time in quite a while and although I don't have a lot to spend money for its nice to not be broke. We do need about $2 per week to buy candy, cokes, cigarettes, etc as our weekly rations, laundry, stamps (if available) and a few odds and ends. There isn't much we can spend money for but we all don't like to be broke, <u>not at all</u>! Want to send all the cash I can home for our future - a home and a <u>baby</u> - as soon as possible!



8.

How is Aunt Thelma & Ray doing with the place at Carthage, gotten the rest of the down payment? How is the lady in the house at Longview doing. I'll bet she does well with it because she sure seemed to be a likeable person.

Well, sweethearts, I guess this is all for tonight but will write again very soon. Oh yes, you can put in a couple of little 5¢ & 10¢ notebooks, the size about 4 in. by 6 in, I can use them. Please, don't worry about me because everything is okay with me and I perfectly safe - safer than you would guess, please don't worry. Continue to write as usual, cause I love you both with all my heart & I always will!

Always your same son,

James Farrell

Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by G.W. DePiano

U.S. Army Postal Service
Dec 19
1944
785

Page 1

Thursday night
December 14, 1944
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Mom + Pop;
Well, hows the two sweetest people in the world to-day? Hope you are both happy and feeling as well and healthy as I am because I feel swell. Course I am a little sore from a football game we played yesterday but thats nothing as I'll get over that easily. We play football every once in a while to keep in good shape but this game was a pretty fierce one and the ground was slick and we slipped all over the place. Damp green grass can really be slick and we had a lot of fun, four of us played the four officers + it was quite a game and we beat them 18-0 and we did razze them.

Page 2

Things are still about the same with me and the rest of the fellows

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door we are out of lumber and nails
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moral is concerned because I have
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the base instead of my old A.P.O
number. I've received two from
you in the last two days and it
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Page 3

from Marshall here and thats darn
good. I haven't received any of your
direct yet but I expect to get one any
say now. I have been getting your
mail real regular and I really do
enjoy them, I appreciate a letter
from home or a package more
than you can possibly imagine.
I am so glad that you are getting
my letters regrularly and I hope you will
continue to get them that way because
I know letters mean as much to
you two as they do to me + I love
them. Just keep up the good work +
I promise to do the same. Paper being
as short as it is I have to make out
with makeshift paper but maybe you
can read it O.K. I don't get to write
my sweet parents as often as I would
like to but gee, news is a mighty
scarce item around here but if you

two are like me, just a few lines

Page 4

letting me know you are well and are
getting along fine means the world.
Be sure to send me the local news
as you always have.
  Hows the weather around there at
this time? Hope it isn't as bad and
rainy as it was when Joe and I
were there. We four certainly did
have a wonderful Christmas that
year didn't we? I hope this Xmas
was as pleasant as that one and
that the coming year will be a
prosperous and victorious one for
us all and that we will soon
be together again and for every
Christmas to come. It will very
likely be another day for me and
we will probably "work" but our Co-
pilot, Jimmy Bryan has a couple of
quarts of American Whiskey so the
ten of us will probably get to-
gether for a few drinks and
some songs and a good time

Page 5

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sweethearts, I want to promise and
tell you something and its the truth,
I think you know that. I'll admit
that I have taken a few drinks
since I came into the army but I've
never, and I never will drink enough
to even feel it. Its mostly about three
bottles of beer per week because thats
what our weekly ration here is. Once
in a while the six enlisted men here
in our tent buy a bottle of champaign
and we split that. The point I want
you to see is, that I don't <u>ever</u> want

you two to worry about your son ever
drinking or becoming a drunkard be-
cause you know I'll never do that.
I know how you feel about drink +
I know how Dot feels about it, she
wouldn't stand for it either and I
love you three to much to ever do
anything like that to hurt you and I

Page 6

believe you know that I speak the
truth when I say that. Be sure to
tell me exactly how you feel about
it because I'm anxious to know.
  How do you all like your new
place by this time. I'll bet you like
it more everyday, especially the cook-
in facilities, ire box and the peace
and quiet. I'll bet its not near as
hard on you to cook and keep
house now is it Mom? I just hope
you aren't doing Aunt Thelmas also
because you aren't in any shape to
do it. Dad, I'll bet you sleep a lot
better there and also that you don't
have nearly as much trouble getting
to and from work. I doubt if you
have a garage so I suppose the
little Ford has to sit out, hope you
don't have trouble with it this
winter. Its nice that you live close
enough that you can walk in an

Page 7

emergency. I can't exactly picture where
you live now, is it out near the big
new grocery store where we talked
to your leaderman or is it the
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Mun had his barber shop? Let me
know in your next letter, I'm anxious
to find out.

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Page 8

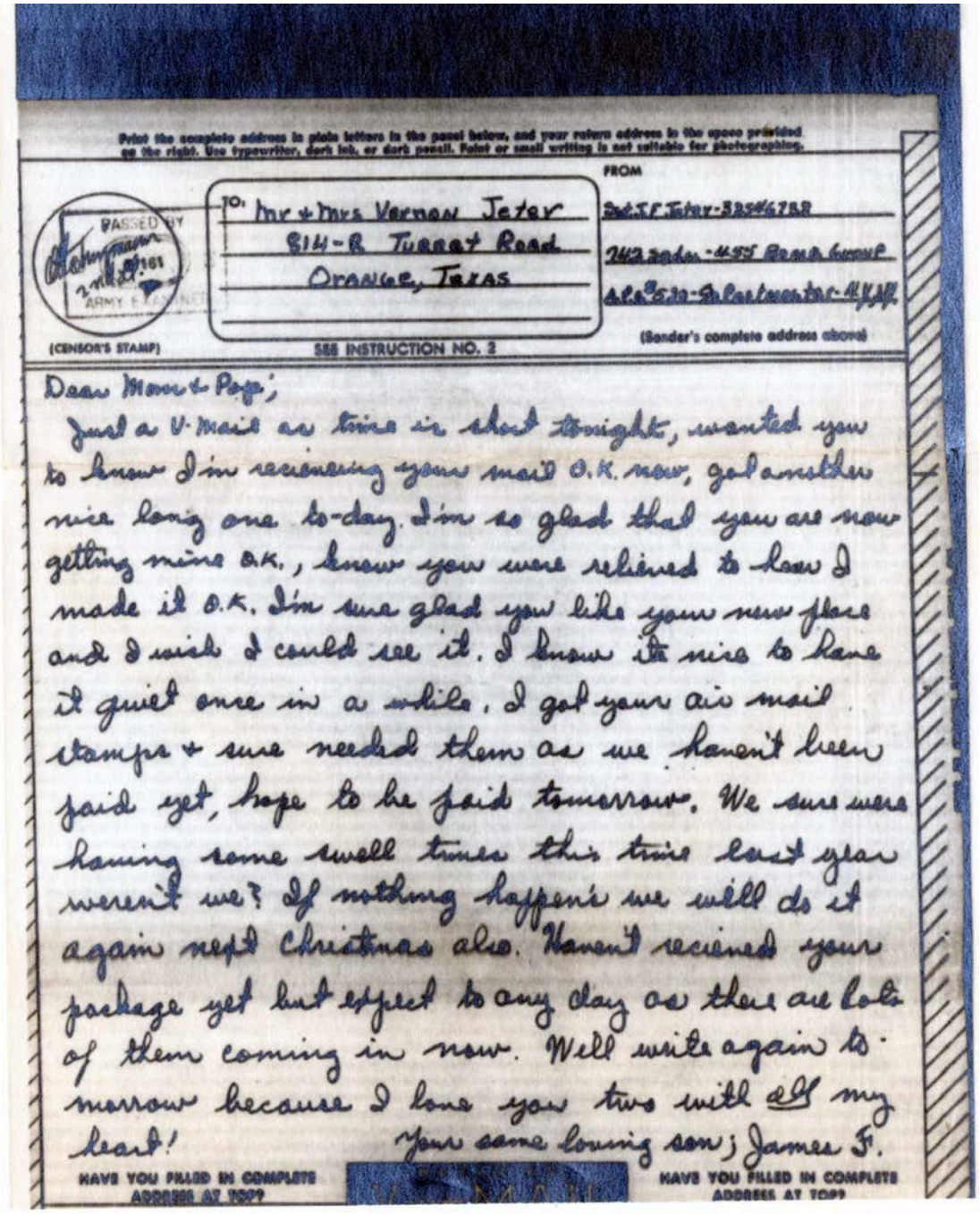
How is Aunt Thelma + Ray doing with the place at Carthage, gotten the rest of the down payment? How is the lady in the house at Longview doing? I'll bet she does well with it because she sure seemed to be a likeable person.

Well, sweethearts, I guess this is all for tonight but will write again very soon. Oh yes, you can put in a couple of little 5 (cents) + 10 (cent) notebooks, the size about 4in by 6 in, I can sure use them. Please, don't worry about me because everything is okay with me and I perfectly safe- safer than you would guess, please don't worry. Continue to write as usual, cause I love you both with all my heart + I always will!

Always your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 14


WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300
DEC 22
2 AM
1944
No. 3



Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided at the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

FROM

PASSED BY ARMY EXAMINER

TO: Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-B Tuscat Road
Orange, Texas

Pvt. J. F. Jeter-32546788
342nd Sqdn. - 483rd Bomb Group
APO 520-% Postmaster-New York

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SSS INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Mom + Pop;

Just a V-mail as time is short tonight, wanted you to know I'm receiveing your mail O.K. now, got another nice long one to-day. I'm so glad that you are now getting mine O.K., know you were relieved to hear I made it O.K. I'm sure glad you like your new place and I wish I could see it. I know its nice to have it quiet once in a while. I got your air mail stamps + sure needed them as we haven't been paid yet, hope to be paid tomorrow. We sure were having some swell times this time last year weren't we? If nothing happens we will do it again next Christmas also. Haven't received your package yet but expect to any day as there are lots of them coming in now. Well write again to-morrow because I love you two with all my heart!

Your same loving son; James F.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Letter 14

War & Navy
Departments
V-Mail Service
Official Business

U.S. Postal Service
Dec. 22
2 AM
1944
No. 3

Page 1

Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Dear Mom + Pop;
Just a V-Mail as time is short tonight, wanted you to know I'm receiving your mail O.K. now, got another nice long one to-day. I'm so glad that you are now getting mine O.K., know you were relieved to how I made it O.K. I'm sure glad you like your new place and I wish I could see it. I know its nice to have it quiet once in a while, I got your air mail stamps + sure needed them as we haven't been paid yet, hope to be paid tomorrow. We sure were having some swell times this time last year weren't we? If nothing happen's we will do it again next Christmas also. Haven't received your package yet but expect to any day as there a lots of them coming in now. Will write again to-morrow because I love you tow with all my heart!

Your same loving son; James F.

Letter 15


Sgt James F. Jeter - 38546738
142 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb. Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. POSTAGE
DEC 24
1944
785
AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Via Air Mail
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas.
PASSED BY
27181
Lt. A.C.

December 22, 1944
Friday night

My dearest Mom & Pop;

Not a whole lot to say to-day but I just had to write you and thank you for the perfectly wonderful Christmas box you sent me - it was grand. I know for certain you couldn't have sent me anything else that I would liked or enjoy any more. The peanuts & pecans were something that absolutely unobtainable over here and I had been wishing for some pecans - boy was I tickled to find them! The candy was the best I've had in months, I simply adore chocolate covered cherries and the box had quite a few in it. I'll bet I gained five pounds - all the other fellows said tell you "thanks" and that they enjoyed it also. You will never realize just how much I appreciated the carton of Luckies

2.

that you sent me, I know how hard they are to find back there in the states and I wouldn't doubt if you are smoking P.A. now because of it and gee whiz - you will never realize what a feeling was in my heart for you two Darlings for that its just beyond my power of words to thank you. The gifts were really wonderful but what made it even more wonderful was that I knew the thoughts that were enclosed and it certainly made me feel good. Thank you again, a million thanks! I only wish I could have sent you both something but its just an impossible item here - you just can't buy anything that is fit for anything but my thoughts will certainly be with the two people

3.

I love so much this Christmas.

See, Dad another birthday has passed for you, hope it was a very nice one and that you have many many more and that I am with you for each one from now on.

Everything is just the same as ever with me, still thirty-two missions to go. Built a real nice window for the tent today and it certainly helps a lot. Had to use steel wire for nails but considering the scarcity of tools + equiptment I did a pretty good job. The writing desk I made the other day certainly does work swell and I'm using it right now. It certainly beats the writing on my knee like I was before and my new clothes rack really is nice. My corner of the tent is really getting to look nice

4.

and homelike. Its my pride and joy and so far mine is the best of all.

Hope you two are settled now or at least getting gas, know you weren't happy by any means over that stuff. Hows the weather there in Orange by now? All you have to do to find out about the weather here is read the papers.

Well, its late and I guess I'd better sign off and hit my rack but will write again very soon. Dont worry about me as I am in perfect health & safe. Just remember your son loves you with all his heart & always will.

always loving you,
James Ferrell.

P.S.
you can send me a wool neck scarf sometime if you can find one - thats me always begging. I DO LOVE YOU SO!

Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Page 1

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Friday night

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Page 2

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Page 4

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Always loving you,
James Ferrwll

P.S.
You can send me a wool neck scarf
sometime if you can find one - thats me
always begging. I DO LOVE YOU SO!

Letter 16


Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742nd - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster - N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
DEC 28
1944
785
POST SERVICE
AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Via Air Mail
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas
PASSED BY
27161
ARMY EXAMINER

1.

Christmas Day
December 1944
Somewhere in Italy

My dearest Mom + Pop;

Well, here it is Christmas Day and I am thousands of miles from my loved ones and instead of having a big time opening packages + gifts from ones we love - we are together in spirit only but we still have lots to be thankful for just the same and we know God will protect and keep us all safe and sound and that we will be together for the other Christmases to come.

I did get a nice Christmas present from the mail service anyway as I recieved five letters from you two at last nites mail call, also twelve from Joe and two from the O'Hagans. Two of yours were V-Mail and three were great big fat air mails, I loved every one of them because mail certainly good for moral and I love them. I hope you enjoy my letters as much as I do yours because yours are grand!

All but one was back letters but I enjoyed them just the same. I'm getting your mail real regular and I'm sure glad you hear from me regularly, I try to average three or four times per week and you have been simply grand to write your son so often, I love you so very much my darlings and I always <u>will</u>!

I guess you were surprised to hear from Clifford Hanes and I'm so glad you sent him my address and I got a letter from the other day and really enjoyed hearing from him and I wrote him right back. If you have his address, he would be tickled pink to hear from you and he's really a swell guy. We worked together a long time and I like him a lot. He is studying to be a navigator and will be a 2nd Lt. when he finishes and will make a darn good officer to, wish I could see him.

I know you were worried when you didn't hear from me in so long

but as you now know, it was impossible to mail letters on the boat. I imagine you were about as tickled and happy to get my first letters as I was to get yours at Bari, I thought I'd bust with joy when I got them, they meant so much to me. I really do appreciate the stamps you send me and I can promise you that every single one serves a darn good purpose, thanks you darlings again.

Right here I want to again thank you for the swell Christmas box, myself and the other fellows really enjoyed every single item and I know how hard cigarettes are to get and I doubly appreciated them because I'd bet they were <u>hard</u> to find + that you are probably doing without yourself so I could have them - God bless you both for everything and I only hate that I couldn't send you something but it makes me feel better to know that you both understand the whole situation, gee I do love you so, <u>thanks!</u>

4.

Oh yes if you ever want to send me something I don't ask for just add a P.S. to my letter and write it in, that the way the fellows folks do who have been he quite a while and I'd never have thought of it but you can keep it in mind.

Thanks for sending me the knife, I really do appreciate it and I know it was hard to find and that makes me appreciate it and you just that much more. I may never really need it and might never have to use it for what I want it for but if the emergency ever arises when I do need it - nothing could take its place + I'd be in a mellva hess without it. I will let you know just as soon as I receive it and I thanks you a million times darlings.

The place we live in is really being fixed up and its beginning to be real home like. I have a swell writing desk, which I'm using now, a swell clothes hanger, a locker for my clothes and a cabinet to keep my stuff in, my corner

is really fixed up nice and its my pride and joy. We have a real nice oil stove to heat the tent and plenty of covers for our beds. We are fixed pretty nice and the only trouble is that we don't have an indoor bath. (Ha Ha) Dont ever worry about how we eat, sleep & live, we do swell & can't gripe about those things. Boy did we get a Christmas supper! I ate until I almost popped and was it good! We had turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, olives, fruit salad, mashed potatoes, string beans, red apples, candid figs, swell mince pie, fruit juices and coffee. Boy I'm not kidding, they really fed this bunch of soldiers a meal tonight but it will never be able to cook a meal like you mom and I'll never forget the wonderful meal and time you two and Joe and I had last Christmas, gee we did have a wonderful time didnt we? I can hardly wait to begin all those good times again, can you?

6.

I didn't know Mr Broussard + them had moved over where Horace lived but I do know if he plays the horses again next year he will have to find some other place to live, maybe this year will teach him a lesson. I can imagine what you thought and said when Horace wanted to know if you all would rent his garage if he fixed it up, boy that was really a laugh! After putting up with them all that time + then after getting a nicer place, a lot closer to work and then ask you to move back - Ha! Old Horace does like you two a lot and I like him but just the same I would want to live with them. He's really going to have to change his ways and buckle down if he intends to work for public work, its a <u>lot</u> different from farming + canal work and I'll bet he soon finds out, don't you? I know how it is with the milk situation because I certainly do miss it over here and I wish I had about 2 quarts right now!

7.

I know how you felt about going to see mamma for Christmas and I'm glad she is still holding up so well. Be sure to tell me all about her as you hear yourself and if you will send me her address I'll write to her. I wrote to Otwell about two weeks ago but I haven't heard from him yet, naturally because I haven't had time but I hope he does find time to answer soon.

See, I'll bet you didn't know you could find anything in Orainge that would stay put long enough to warrent standing in line for. See mona you shouldn't have stood there that long because you know how hard it is for you, you know Joe would understand and I know he was tickled over your gifts.

Yes, I have a picture of you two and I wouldn't take anything for it, its one of my prized possessions and I keep it with me all the time. I think Joe has the negetatine, write him and see

if he hasn't. I'd sure like to have a big row sweet taters like those you got, rolled or not! Don't worry about my smokes, they are rationed but we get plenty but you can drop a book of Prince Albert cigarette papers in your next letter or so because I'm hot a hanker for a P.A. for sometime now, and don't worry about my gambeling!

Well, guess this will be all for this time but will write you again real soon. Just don't worry about me and I will be home before you know it. Just remember your same son loves his mother and daddy with all his heart and always will.

always loving you,
James Ferrell

Letter 16

Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Dec 28
1944
785

Page 1

Christmas Day
December 1944
Somewhere in Italy

My dearest Mom + Pop;
Well, here it is Christmas Day and I am thousands of miles from my loved ones and instead of having a big time opening packages + gifts from ones we love - we are together in spirit only but we still have lots to be thankful for just the same and we know God will protect and keep us all safe and sound and that we will be together for the other Christmases to come.
I did get a nice Christmas present from the mail service anyway as I recieved five letters from you two at last nites mail call, also twelve from Joe and two from the O'Hagans. Two of yours were V-

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I loved every one of them because mail
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I hope you enjoy my letters as much as
I do your because yours are grand!

Page 2

All but one was back letters but I enjoyed
them just the same. I'm getting your mail
real regular and I'm sure glad you hear
from me regularly, I try to average three
or four times per week and you have
been simply grand to write your son
so often, I love you so very much my
darlings and I always will!
I guess you were surprised to hear from
Clifford Hanes and I'm so glad you sent
him my address and I got a letter from
the other day and really enjoy hearing
from him and I wrote him right
back. If you have his address, he
would be tickled pink to hear from
you and he's really a swell guy. We
worked together a long time and
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a navigator and will be a 2nd Lt.
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purpose, thank you darlings again.
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Page 4

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The place we live in is really being fixed up and its beginning to be real home like. I have a swell writing desk, which I'm using now, a swell clothes hanger, a locker for my clothes and a cabinet to keep my stuff in, my corner

Page 5

is really fixed up nice and its my pride and joy. We have a real nice oil stove to heat the tent and plenty of cover for our beds. We are fixed pretty nice and the only trouble is that we don't have an indoor bath! (Ha Ha) Don't ever worry about how we eat, sleep + live, we do swell + can't gripe about those things. Boy did we get a Christmas supper! I ate until I almost popped and was it good! We had turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, olives, fruit salad, mashed potatoes, string beans, real apples, candid figs, swell mince pie, fruit juices and coffee, 'Boy I'm not kidding, they really fed this bunch of soldiers a meal tonight but it will never be able to cook a meal like you mom and I'll never forget the wonderful meal and time you two and Joe and I had last Christmas, gee we did have a wonderful time didn't we? I can hardly wait to begin all those good times again, can you?

Page 6

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certainly do miss it over here and I wish
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Page 7

I know how you felt about going to see
Mamma for Christmas and I'm glad
she is still holding up so well. be sure
to tell me all about her as you hear
yourself and if you will send me her
address I'll write to her. I wrote to
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heard from him yet, naturally because
I haven't had time but I hope he
does find time to answer soon.
Gee, I'll bet you didn't know you
could find anything in Orange that
would stay put long enough to warrant
standing in line for. Gee mom you
shouldn't have stood there that long
because you know how hard it is on
you, you know Joe would understand
and I know he was tickled over your
gifts.
Yes, I have a picture of you two and
I wouldn't take anything for it, its one
of my prized possessions and I keep
it with me all the time. I think Joe
has the vegetative, write him and see

Page 8

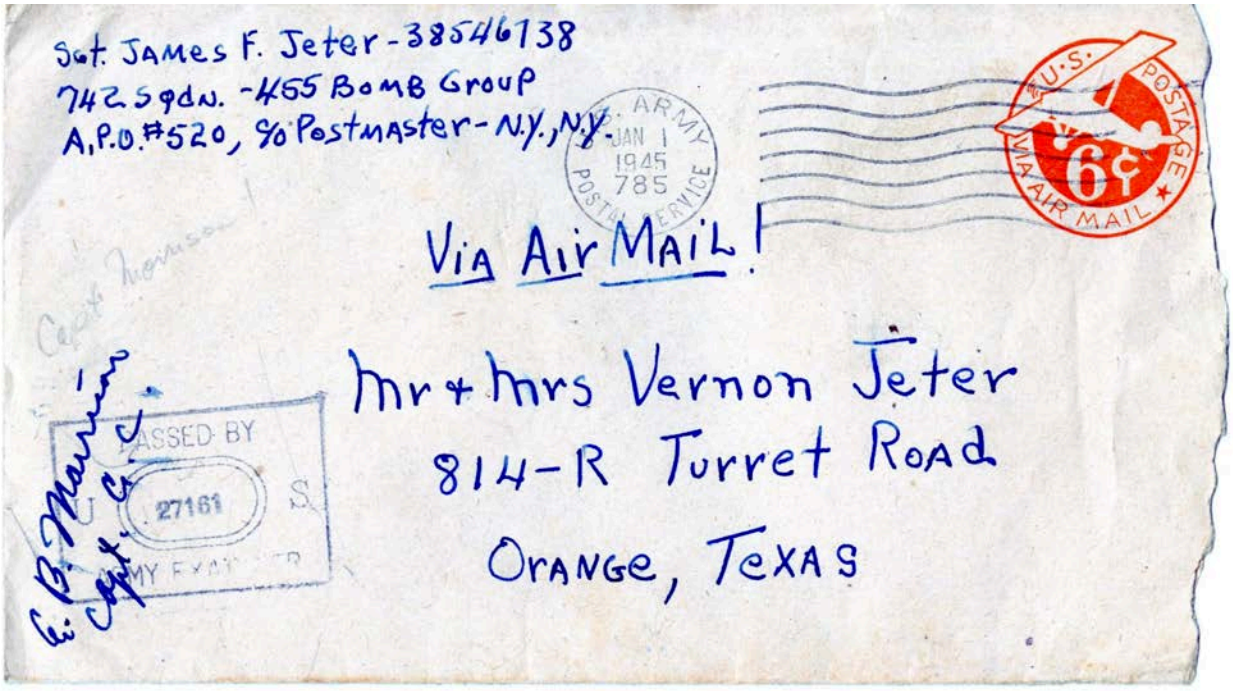
if he hasn't. I'd sure like to have a
big row sweet tater like those you got,
rolled or not! Don't worry about my
smokes, they are rationed but we get
plenty but you can drop a book of

Prince Albert cigarette papers in your next letter or so because I've had a hanker for a P.A. for sometime now, and don't worry about my gambling!

Well, guess this will be all for this time but will write you again real soon. Just don't worry about me and I will be home before you know it. Just remember your same son loves his mother and daddy with all his heart and always will.

Always loving you,
James Ferrell

Letter 17


Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546138
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520, % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
JAN 1
1945
785
POSTAL SERVICE
U.S. POSTAGE
6¢
VIA AIR MAIL
Via Air Mail!
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas
PASSED BY
27161
E. B. Marion
Capt. C.

December 29, 44
Friday night
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Mom + Pop;

Well, although I don't have a lot of news, I thought I write the ones I love and let you know I'm thinking of you and am in perfect health, and I hope you two are the same.

The situation is the same here with me, still 31 missions to go and feeling fine. We do have a lot more light in our tent and I can see how to write a lot better. Two of us went into town and purchased some lamps, I got myself two and I have the best lighted desk and corner in the tent. Saw the town but it was just like all the others only it was a lot cleaner. Went to the Red Cross building and it was very nice. They had all kinds of games, radio's to play, places to write, read and a snack bar. We got some real good cake, icecream and coffee and it only cost us a dime, it was really good and we enjoyed it a lot. I saw a couple of fellows I went thru

basic training with at Sheppard Field with, one was Billy Garrett but I told you about him in yesterdays V-Mail. They are stationed within traveling distance of me and I intend to try and see them once in a while when I have time.

Our tent is really more like home now and so far I still have the best corner of all. I have my swell writing desk, cabinet, footlocker, large board for pictures which is full, a nice clothes hanger and I've even made a cover for the rack to keep the dust off my clothes. I'm really proud of my little corner and I have several other things I want to fix up and build for myself if I can ever get myself some nails and tools, which are harder to get than furlough at this place. Will keep you in touch on all the additions I make on my shack. Our stove is really working nice and is being enjoyed by one and all. Almost every nite

3.

we bring our butter from the mess hall and make toast with bread the cooks give us. It makes a swell bedtime snack and since it lays light in my stomach, I really enjoy it, in fact I just finished eating two big delicious slices fairly soaked in butter and I really did enjoy it - boy it really would have been scrumptious if I'd had some jelly or perserves to go with it. Sometime if you want to send me something good, you can send some jelly or peanut butter, sardines, dried prunes or raisins, you know stuff like that that isn't perserved or canned, all the fellows and especially me go for that but above all do not send any spam or salmon - we eat spam like the coonies eat rice and we get pretty tired of it sometimes. Don't ever short yourself on points to send me stuff because I can do without it easily. I hate to write and ask you two sweethearts for so much but there is

CENSORED JAN 15 1943

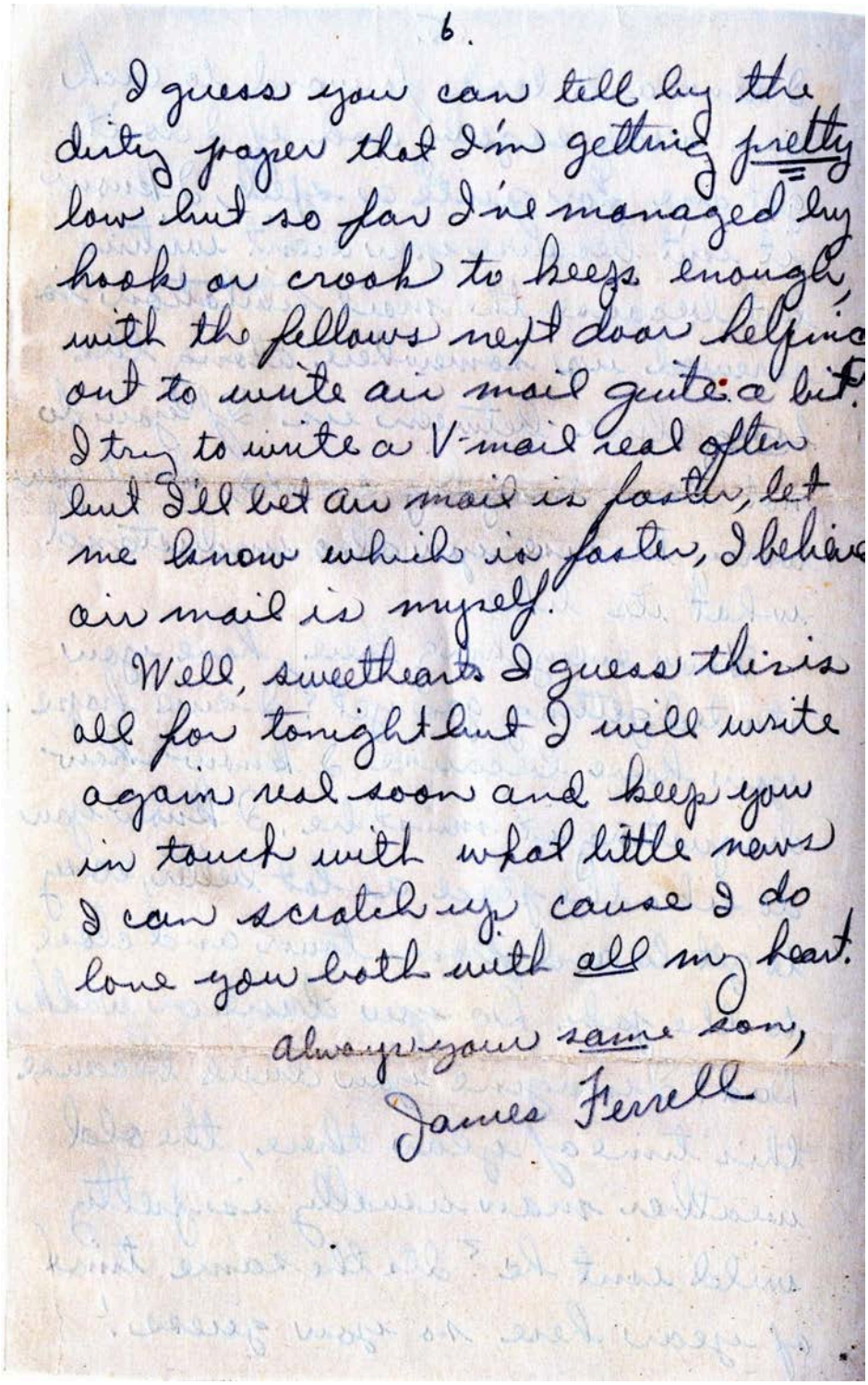
absolutely no way to get it here and I think I keeps you running around in circles hunting + buying things to send me. Whatever you do, dont go to any trouble and if its the least bit hard to find forget about it as I can get along just as easy without it but being like I always was when I was a kid, I love my sweets and I guess I always will especially my peanut patties! See, I guess you think your son is nuts or something dont you?

How is the mail situation with you two? Still getting my mail real regular? I haven't received one from you two in several days but I know I will within the next two or three days because it doesn't come to us daily like letters written back and forth in the states but they are delivered in batches. Course I'd rather get one every day but just the same

5.

I love and look forward to each one very eagerly and if I don't get one for quite a spell, I know it isn't because you aren't writing but because the mail situation is screwed up somewhere along the long line between us. If you do not hear everyday or so, don't you worry because you also understand what its like.

Hows everything there, have you started getting gas yet? I sure hope you have because I know how disgusting it must be. I know you do like the place a lot better, easy to get to and from town and close to the job. Do you drive or walk Dad? I imagine you drive because this time of year there, the old weather man usually is getting mild isn't he? Its the same time of year here so you guess!



6.

I guess you can tell by the dirty paper that I'm getting pretty low but so far I've managed by hook or crook to keep enough with the fellows next door helping out to write air mail quite a bit. I try to write a V-mail real often but I'll bet air mail is faster, let me know which is faster, I believe air mail is myself.

Well, sweetheart I guess this is all for tonight but I will write again real soon and keep you in touch with what little news I can scratch up cause I do love you both with all my heart.

always your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 17

Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group

A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Jan 1
1945
785

Page 1

December 29, 1944
Friday night
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Mom + Pop;

Well, although I don't have a lot of news, I thought I write the ones I love and let you know I'm thinking of you and am in perfect health, and I hope you two are the same.

The situation is the same here with me, still 31 missions to go and feeling fine. We do have a lot more light in our tent and I can see how to write a lot better. Two of us went into town and purchased some lamps, I got myself two and I have the best lighted desk and corner in the tent. Saw the town but it was just like all the others only it was a lot cleaner. Went to the Red Cross building and it was very nice. They had all kinds of games, radio's to play, places to write, read and a snack bar. We got some real good cake, ice cream and coffee

and it only cost us a dime, it was
really good and we enjoyed it a lot. i
saw a couple of fellows I went thru

Page 2

basic training with at Sheppard Field
with, one was Billy Garrett but I told
you about him in yesterdays V-Mail.
They are stationed within traveling
distance of me and I intend to try
and see them once in a while when
I have time.
  Our tent is really more like home
now and so far I still have the best
corner of all. I have my swell writing
desk, cabinet, footlocker, large board for
pictures which is full, a nice clothes
hanger and I've even made a cover
for the rack to keep the dust off my
clothes. I'm really proud of my little
corner and I have several other things
I want to fix up and build for
myself if I can ever get myself
some mails and tools, which are
harder to get than furlough at
this place. Will keep you in touch
on all the additions I make on
my shack. Our stone is really
working nice and is being enjoyed
by one and all. Almost every nite

Page 3

we bring our butter from the mess hall
and make toast with bread the cooks
give us. It makes a swell bedtime
snack and since it lays light in my
stomach, I really enjoy it, in fact I just
finished eating two big delicious slices
fairly soaked in butter and I really
did enjoy it - boy it really would have
been scrumptious if I'd had some
jelly as preserves to go with it. Some-

time if you want to send some jelly or
preserves, sardines, dried prunes, or
raisones, you know stuff like that
that is preserved or canned, all the
fellows and espeically we go for that
but above all do not send any spam
or salmon - we eat spam like
the coonies eat rice and we get pretty
tired of it sometimes. Don't ever short
yourself on points to send me stuff
because I can do without it easily.
I hate to write and ask you two
sweethearts for so much but there is

Page 4

absolutely no way to get it here and
I think I keep you running around
in circles hunting + buying things
to send me. Whatever you do, don't
go to any trouble and if its te least
bit hard to find forget about it as
I can get along just as easy with
out it but being like I always was
when I was a kid, I love my
sweets and I guess I always will,
especially my peanut patties! Gee,
I guess you think your son is
nuts or something don't you?
  How is the mail situation with
you two? Still getting my mail real
regular? I haven't recieved one from
you two in several days but I know
I will within the next two or three
days because it doesn't come to us
daily like letters written back and
forth in the states but they are
delivered in batches. Course I'd rather
get one every day but just the same

Page 5
I love and look forward to each
one very eagerly and if I don't
get one for quite a spell, I know

it isn't because you aren't writing
but because the mail situtation is
screwed up somewhere along the
long line between us. If you do
not hear everyday or so, don't you
worry because you also understand
what its like.
Hows everything there, have you
started getting gas yet? I sure hope
you have because I know how
disgusting it must be. I know you
do like the place a lot better, easy
to get to and from town and close
to the job. Do you drive or walk
Dad? I imagine you drive because
this time of year there, the old
weather man usually is pretty
wild isnt he? Its the same time
of year here so you guess!

Page 6

I guess you can tell by the
dirty paper that I'm getting pretty
low but so far I've managed by
hook or crook to keep enough,
with the fellows next door helping
out to write air mail quite a bit.
I try to write a V-mail real often
but I'll bet air mail is faster, I believe
air mail is myself.
Well, sweethearts I guess this is
all for tonight but I will write
again real soon and keep you
in touch with what little news
I can scratch up cause I do
love you both with all my heart.

Always your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 18


Sgt. James F. Jeter. 38546738
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster-N.Y.N.Y.
JAN 4 1945
POSTAL SERVICE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
Via Air Mail!
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
ORANGE, Texas.
PASSED BY
U 27161 S
ARMY EXAMINER
Lt 97 Bellamy Tx

Monday night
January 1, 1945
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Folks;

Just a few lines to let you know I'm thinking of the ones I love and that I'm still feeling fine. There is very little news that I can pass on but I can always let you know I love you two with all my heart.

Its the same old seven and six with me here not a whole lot to do but plenty hard when we do work. Haven't added much since I built my new cabinet for my clothes and bought my lamps. The new lamps sure make it swell for letter writing and my corner is well lighted now. Am going to get me a new G.I. bedroll from one of my buddies next door who has finished his

missions and going home. Its real nice and will make my bed 100% better, softer, warmer and a lot easier to keep made up. Slowly but surely we are getting our tent to look and seem more like home.

The fellows next door have finish-ed their missions and are leaving for the states and we sure hate to see them leave because they are our best buddies. Course we see their side of it and are glad to see them going home because we intend doing that before many months ourselves. One fellow is a special friend of mine and he has your address and promised to write you when he is settled. Course it will probably be six weeks before he gets settled but I knew you would like to hear from

him. His name is S/Sgt William Lagemby and he's really a swell fellow and when he writes, be sure to answer and ask him anything you like because he will answer.

Well, the new year is on its way and lets hope and pray that it will see the end of the war and all of us together again. We saw it in last night and it came in with a lot of noise here. There were sirens blowing, men yelling, pistols shooting, flares shooting, mess kits rattling, loud explosions and a few machine guns rattling to add to the clamor, yes it was quite noisy indeed and everybody running around wishing his buddy "a Happy New Year" and

we all meant it to. The fellows next door came over and we had a couple of bottles of champagne to drink and we spent quite an enjoyable evening. I just hope we can get our remaining 31 sorties in and get home by the last of May & I believe we will but I'm not planning on it to heavily so don't you either.

Recieved your letter written on December 15 with Mrs Tarants letter and really enjoyed the news from home, plan to write her some of these days. See, hasn't the old neighborhood changed a lot! It's criminal to charge $16000 for that house when you all could have bought it for $700 but war has shot prices sky

5

high on everything! I certainly do thank you for the air mails & you can see they get put to a good use as there is one on this letter

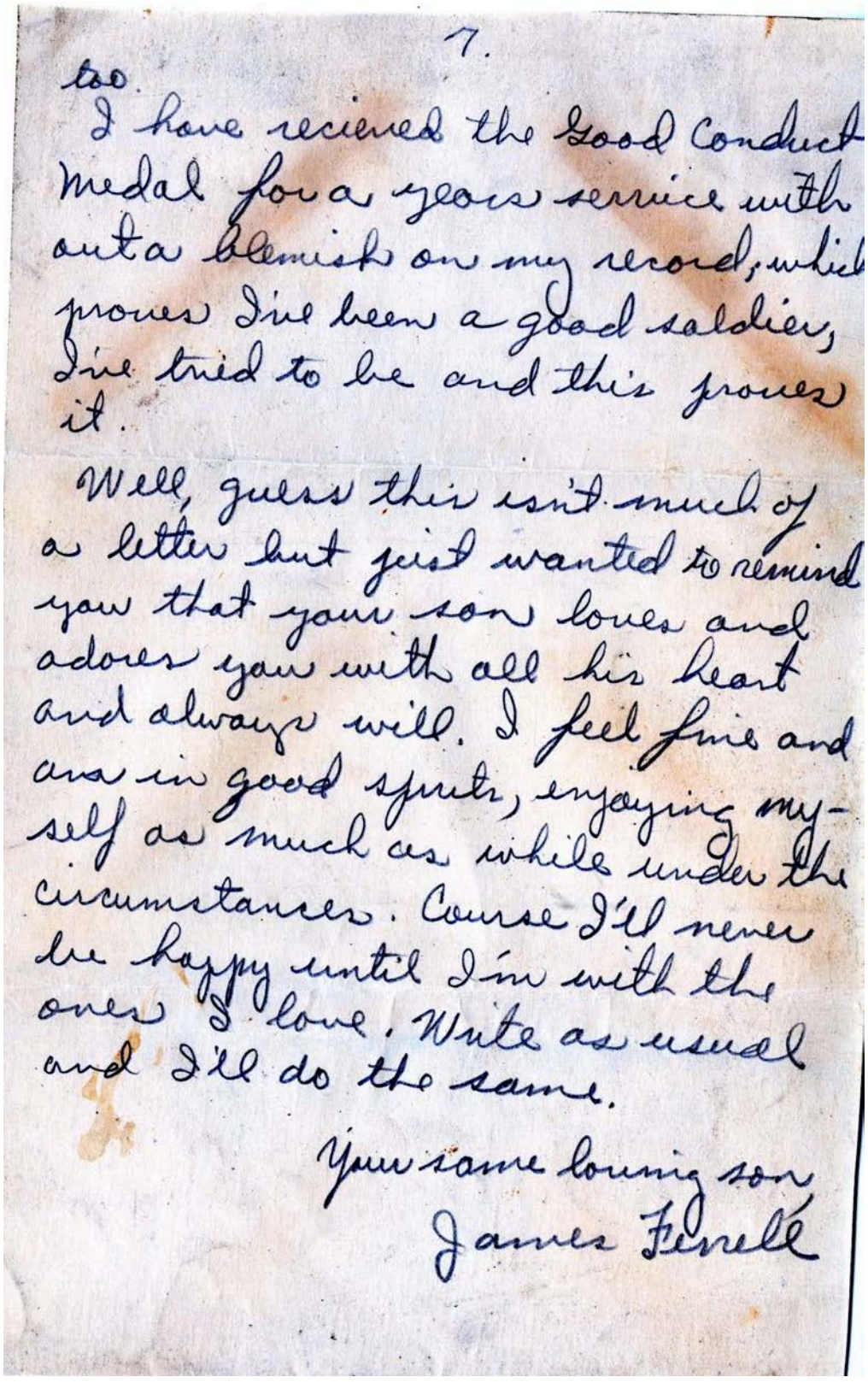
I'm still getting your mail real regular and I hope you are getting mine O.K. all the time. I guess the Lieut. read your minds because he gave us a new tent! Its a lot better than the one we had & its a lot better than the one we had. We dont have any living troubles except keeping the place clean I also received a letter from Otwell and he is in Germany now. I don't know whether aunt Thelma knows that's hes there or not so you better not tell her till you know. He's getting along fine and wrote a real nice letter and I sat right down and answered it.

2.

and I so far have answered all my mail pretty good except for one letter I owe to the O'Hagans I'm all caught up and I intend to answer it tonight or tomorrow.

Glad you all liked the gift Joe sent for us and I only wish I could have sent something myself but you understand. You two just keep your chins up and we will be together again real soon.

Hope you all are getting gas for your little apartment now & that you are nice & cozy. I know you both like it a lot better than at the Broussards and I wish I could visit you two for a couple of weeks - long weeks. How's it at the yards with you Dad, still building those boats? I guess you are working pretty long hrs



7.

too.

I have recieved the Good Conduct Medal for a years service without a blemish on my record, which proves I've been a good soldier, I've tried to be and this proves it.

Well, guess this isn't much of a letter but just wanted to remind you that your son loves and adores you with all his heart and always will. I feel fine and am in good spirits, enjoying myself as much as while under the circumstances. Course I'll never be happy until I'm with the ones I love. Write as usual and I'll do the same.

Your same loving son

James Ferrell

Letter 18
Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Jan 4
1945
785

Page 1

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January 1, 1945
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anything you like because he will
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sorties in and get home by
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will but I’m not planning on
it to heavily so don’t you either.
Received your letter written on
December 15 wtih Mrs. Jarrents
letter and really enjoyed the
news from home, plan to write
her some of these days. Gee,
hasn’t the old neighborhood changed
a lot! Its criminal to charge
$1600 for that house when you
all could have bought it for $700
but war has shot prices sky

Page 5

high on everything! I certainly do
thank you for the air mails +
you can see they get put to a
good use as there is one on
this letter.
I’m still getting your mail real
regular and I hope you are getting
mine O.K. all the time. I guess the
Lieut. read your minds because he
gave us a new tent! Its a lot
better than the one we had +
its a lot better than the one we
had. We dont have any living troubles
except keeping the place clean I

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don't know whether Aunt Thelma
knows that hes there or not so
you better not tell her till you
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I'm all caught up and I intend
to answer it tonight or tomorrow.
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just keep your chins up and we
will be together again real soon.
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your little apartment now + that
you are nice + cozy. I know you
both like it a lot better than at the
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a letter but just want to remind

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adores you with all his heart
and always will. I feel fine and
? in good spirits, enjoying my-
self as much as while under the
circumstances. Course I'll never
be happy until I'm with the
ones I love. Write as usual
and I'll do the same.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 19

455 Bomb Group
742 Bomb Squadron
A.P.O. 520
c/o Postmaster, N.Y. N.Y.
10 Jan, 1945

Dear Father-

We got in a new crew the other day and in looking over the rosters, I noticed a Jamie F. Jeter whose address was Marshall, Texas. Being so close to home and having a very familiar name, he was called into my office. I was very much surprised to find that he is related to you and all the Jeters, and Hoglens and Rogers whom I have taught back

in the good old days - Of course
I'd never met this fellow,
but when I learned that he was
related to you, I knew we
had lots in common -

just thought I'd let you
know he's here where I can
"look" after him - I'll try to
take good care of him. I've
just helped get Vernon Rowden
through and now this Panola
County boy shows up - Hope he
has as good luck as Vernon
did. J.R. Underwood and Jimmy

Yanks are over here, but they're
not at my base; therefore I don't
get to see much of them - Wish
they were closer; the transportation
over here is my joy. We don't
get much chance to visit other
bases - Jones is right here
in my Comp - I can see him
every day - two or three times
a day, which makes looking
after him not a difficult job.
The war over here is still
a long ways from being won -
We still have a long way to
go - We've come a long way

since I got here last Jan. Right now the weather is our "worst" enemy. We can combat the enemy and usually win, but we can't do much about the weather, but try to protect ourselves from it. We have snow, sleet, and rain and more rain and mud. reminds me of drilling rig mud-just as slick and all over the world over here. all we do is to cover around our home made stoves in our tents and pray that spring and summer will

hurry and get here -
wish you'd tell all the
folks at home hello - Write
to us - This part of over the
boys got lots of packages, the
homefolks really put themselves
out to be nice to us - But
as well as the hopes were
appreciated every man who
got one would have trenged
to have traded it in for a
long, sweet, newsy letter
from home - I can't stress too
much what letters mean

to the boys in the service-
Mr. Spence, I'll look after
James - Don't worry about him-
should anything happen to
him, I'll be able to give
you the story when I get
home- A large percent of
these boys get through - some
don't as yet experience prone,
but the way I look at it, if
we are to die, we will and
there's not much we can do
about it. Vernon Bowden went
through the worst of it - Little

J. E. Bowen, right there at home – It's things like that that make me realize that when one's time comes he'll go – so don't worry about him – just write him – send my love to Spencer tell everyone hello –

yours –

E. B. Morrison
Capt. A. C.

Letter 19

Page 1

455 Bomb Group
742 Bomb squadron
A.P.O. 520
To Portsmith, N.Y., N.Y
10 Jan, 1945

Dear Folks,
We got in a new crew the
other day and in looking over the
names, & noticed a James F. Jeter
whose address was Marshall Lyon (?)
Being so close to home
and having a very familiar name,
he was called into my office.
I was very much surprised to
find that he's related to you
and all the Jeters, and Hogens and
Rays, who I have taught back

Page 2

in the good old days - Of course
I'd never met this fellow,
but when I learned that he was
related to you I knew we
had lots in common.
Just thought I'd let you
know he's here where I can
"look" after him. I'll try to
take good care of him. I've
just helped get Vernon Rowden
through and now this Panola
County boy shows up. Hope he
has as good luck as Vernon
did. J.R. Underwood and Jimmy

Page 3

Duran are over here, but they're
not at my base; therefore I don't
get to see much of them - Wish

they were closer; the transportation
over here is very poor. We don't
get much chance to visit other
bases - James is right here
in my camp- I can see him
every day- two or three times
a day, which makes looking
after him not a difficult job.
The war over here is still
a long ways from being won-
we still have a long way to
go - We've come a long way

Page 4

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now the weather is our
"worst" enemy. We can combat
the enemy and usually win,
but we can't do much about
the weather, but try to protect
ourselves from it. We have
snow, sleet, and rain and more
rain and mud - reminds me
of drilling rig mud just as
slick and all over the world
over here - all we do is to
hover around our home made
stones in our tents and pray
that spring and summer will

Page 5

hurry and get here.
Wish you'd tell all the
folks at home hello - Write
to us. This past Xmas the
boys got lots of packages, the
homefolks really put themselves
out to be nice to us. But
as well as the boxes were
appreciated every man who
got one would have been glad
to have traded it in for a

long, sweet, newsy letter
from home. I can't stress too
much what letters mean

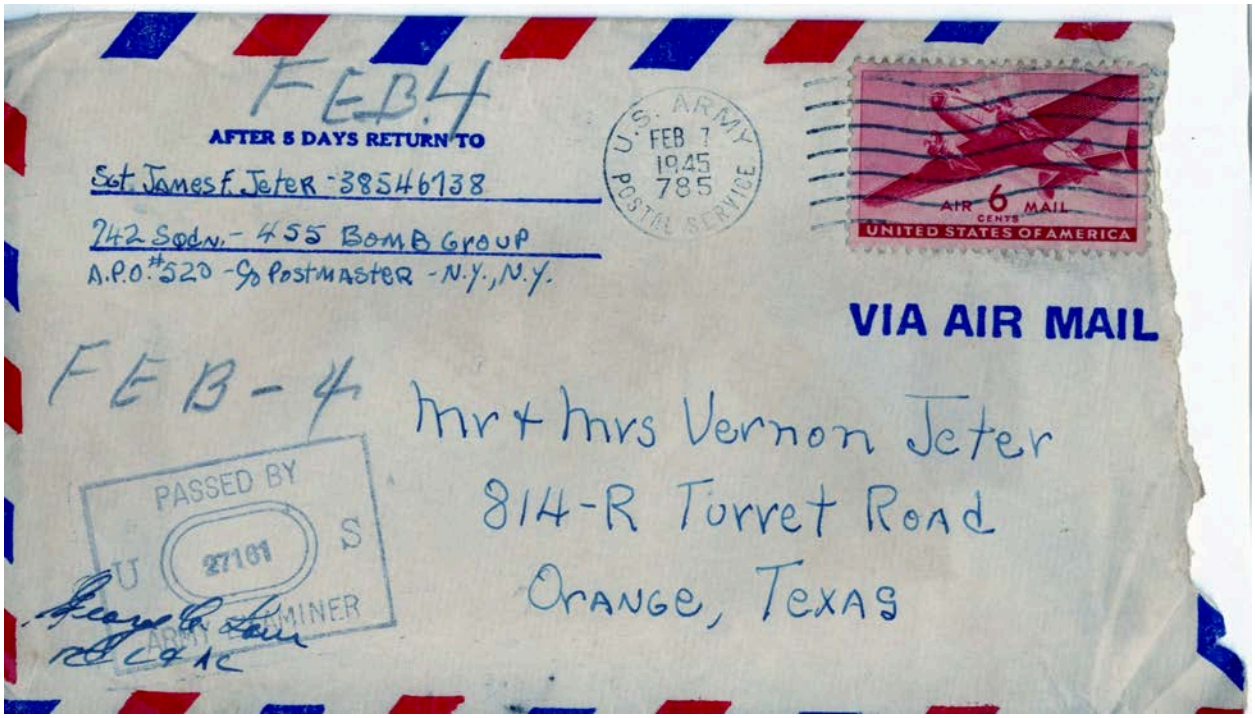
Page 6

to the boys in the service-
  Mrs. Spence, I'll look after
James - Don't worry about him-
should anything happen to
him, I'll be able to give
you the story when I get
home- a large percent of
these boys get through- some
don't as part experiences prove,
but the way I look at it, if
we are to die, we will and
there's not much we can do
about it. Vernon Rowden went
through the worst of it - Little

Page 7

J.R. Bowen, right there at
home - It's things like that
that make me realize that
when one's time comes he'll
go- so don't worry about
him - just write him.
  send my love to Spencer
Tell everyone hello-
        Yours -
        E.B. Morrison
        Capt. A.C.

Letter 20


FEB 4
AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO
Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546138
242 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
FEB 7
1945
785
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA AIR MAIL
FEB-4
PASSED BY
U
27101
S
EXAMINER
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

February 4, 1945
Sunday evening
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Mom & Pap;

Happy birthday Mom and many of them I wish I could be with you to-day on your birthday and then we could celebrate it in a big way. Hope you spent a very happy and pleasant birthday and that I can help celebrate all the rest. I wish it was so I could have sent you something but I know you understand why I did not or could not so there's no use of me going into detail. I just will have to make up for it when I get home again. May God bless you both and keep you safe and happy for long years to come!

2.

Well, things are still the same here with me, not doing much of anything but sleeping eating, and writing letters, course we do fly once in a while and I'd personally like to fly everyday for at least two weeks. I still like twenty-eight missions but I have hopes of decreasing that number very shortly. Course I can't tell you what day I fly a mission but I always let you know within a few day and never over a week. Our missions have all been real easy on me considering all and I just hope the remaining ones are as easy as the first bunch. When I was in the states training for this they gave us the impression it would really be tough but so far it has liked a whole lot of being anything like they said. Course it

has plenty of risks involved but there aren't near as dangerous as they would have us believe in the states. Course it gets cold and I do mean cold way up there and if a part of you is exposed to it very long you can get a very bad case of frost bite on a frozen hand or foot. Also you have to wear an oxygen mask and breathe bottled air and breathing it is absolutely necessary to stay alive because you can die in five minutes if you don't have it, as we almost found out from experience the other day. I will try to tell you a bit about it but I do not know if you can get the full effect or meaning from what I'm allowed to say. I asked Capt. Morrison if I could write about it and he explained that I could write some about it but I just hope

some censor doesn't cut it all out because there will certainly be no military secrets in it. If it is cut out, don't worry over it because that will be just another "war tale" I can tell you when I return.

It all started when one of the fellows near me broke his air line and passed out. I saw him and immediately started helping him or rather fixing him up with more air because he was unconscious. Well I plugged his mask into another air line and started checking the lines. Well, while I was doing that, his air came out and he went out again! One of the other fellows gave him his air line and by the time I turned around this other guy had passed out! Wow was I having fun! Ha Well, I had to give him my air and before

I found a portable bottle of air I almost went ker-flop! about the time I got all settled the first guys mask froze up and he took his mask off and was just about out again so I just took the hose and crammed it into his mouth! Well the hose had a steel ring around the end & although it saved his life it caused him to get frostbitten lips and a very cold butt! That left us with three men on two hoses so one of us had to go to another part of the plane and I got another mask and put on him and everything was O.K. at last! By the time we got settled we had dropped our bombs and the shooting was over & I hardly knew it! It was a close shave but it didn't scare me at all - until it was over & I

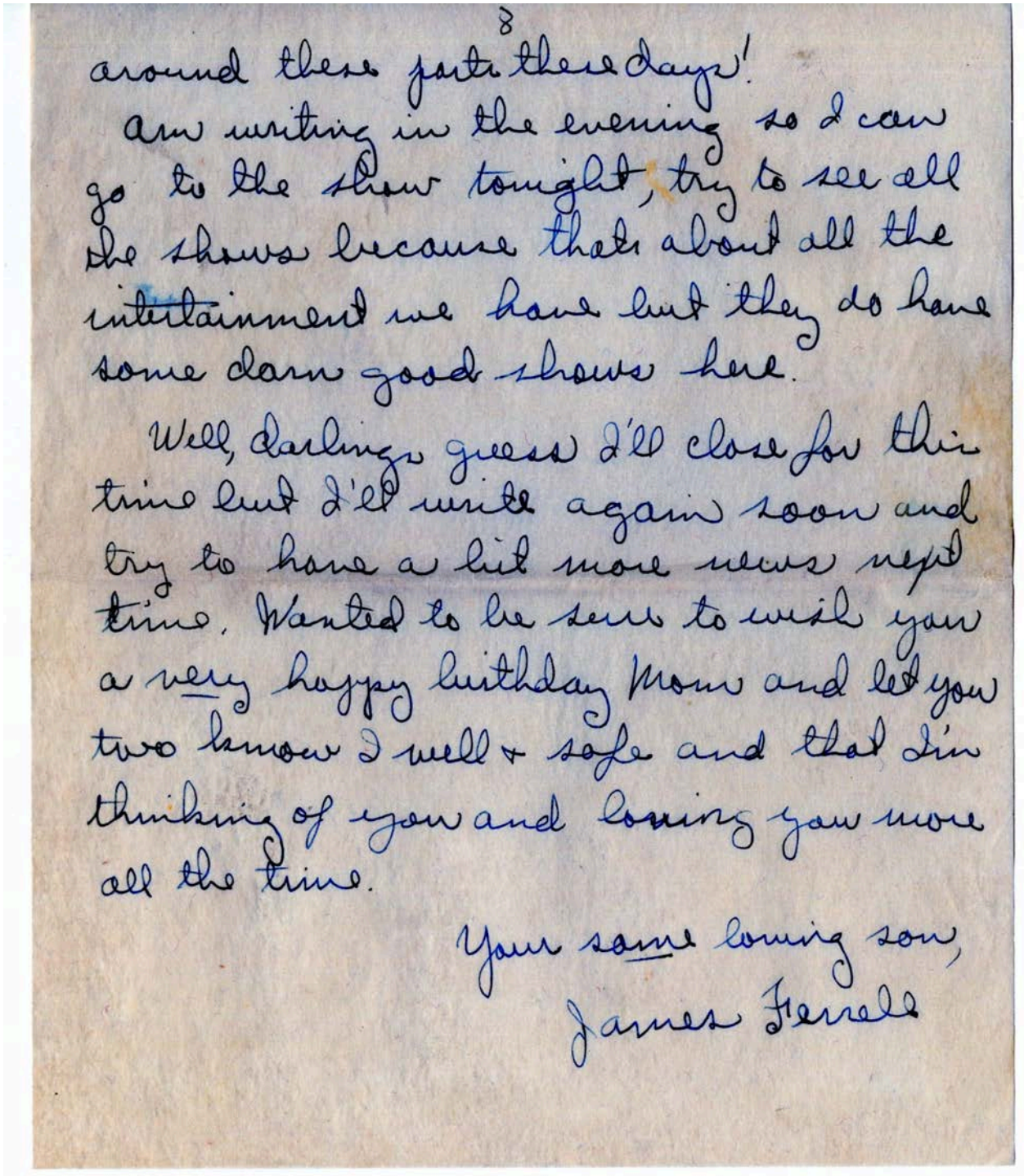
got to thinking what could have happened! To sit here and think about it, its really funny, that may sound strange to you but when a guy passes out from lack of air, he's comical and funny as all get out! Everything turned out fine and nobody hurt and we gained a lot of valuable experience because we know how to prevent it from happening again and what to do if it does!

Hows everything back there in Dear Old Texas? Hope you are having some nice weather and that spring is about there. The last few days have been swell here and we have really enjoyed it, hope the rain has gone for a long time to come - I hope, I hope, I hope!

3.

The war news is really looking good and I hope the Russians soon have all the Nazis that are scared to death so their war with Germany will end. Then we can hit the Japs with everything we have and maybe end it all and come home where I belong!

Haven't received a letter the last two days now but since our mail comes in batches, I'll probably get several tomorrow or next day, I hope so anyway. So far I've done pretty good on getting mail & I sure hope you are getting mine in good time and regular because I try to find enough news to write at least two air mails and two or three V mails each week but news is sure scarce



8

around these parts these days!

am writing in the evening so I can go to the show tonight, try to see all the shows because that's about all the entertainment we have but they do have some darn good shows here.

Well, darling, guess I'll close for this time but I'll write again soon and try to have a bit more news next time. Wanted to be sure to wish you a very happy birthday Mom and let you two know I well & safe and that I'm thinking of you and loving you more all the time.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

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742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group

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from experience the other day. I will
try to tell you a bit about it but I do
not know if you can get the full effect
or meaning from what I'm allowed to
say. I asked Capt. Morrison if I could write
about it and he explained that I could
write some about it but I just hope

Page 4

some censor doesn't cut it all out because
there will certainly be no military secrets
in it. If it is cut out, don't worry over
it because that will be just another "war

tale" I can tell you when I return.
It all started when one of the fellows near me broke his air line and passed out. I saw him and immediately started helping him or rather fixing him up with more air because he was unconscious. Well, I plugged his mask into another air line and started checking the lines. Well, while I was doing that, his air ran out and he went out again! One of the other fellows gave him his air line and by the time I turned around this other guy had passed out! Wow was I having fun! Ha Well, I had to give him my air and before

Page 5

I found a portable bottle of air I almost went ker-flap! About the time I got all settled the first guys mask froze up and he took his mask off and was just about out again so I just took the bare hose and crammed it into his mouth! Well, the hose had a steel ring around the end + although it saved his life it caused him to get frostbitten lips and a very cold butt! That left us with three men on two hoses so one of us had to go to another part of the plane and I got another mask and but (put?) on him and everything was O.K. at last! By the time we got settled we had dropped our bombs and the shooting was over + I hardly knew it! It was a close shove but it didn't scare me at all - until it was over + I

Page 6

got to thinking what could have happened! To sit here and think about it, its really funny, that may sound strange to you but when a guy passes out from lack of air, he's comical and funny as all get out! Everything turned out fine and

nobody hurt and we gained a lot of
notable experiences because we know
how to prevent it from happening again
and what to do if it does!
Hows everything back there in Dear
Ole Texas? Hope you are having some
nice weather and that spring is about
there. The last few days have been swell
here and we have really enjoyed it, hope
the rain has gone for a long time
to come - I hope, I hope, I hope!

Page 7

The war news is really good and
I hope the Russians soon have all the Nazis
shot or scared to death so this war with
Germany will end. Then we can hit the
Japs with everything we have and maybe
end it all and come home where I
belong!
Haven't recieved a letter the past two days
now but since our mail comes in
batches, I'll probably get several tomorrow
or next day, I hope so anyway. So far
I've done pretty good on getting mail +
I sure hope you are getting mine in
good time and regular because I try
to find enough news to write at least
two air mails and two or three V-Mails
each week but news is sure scarce

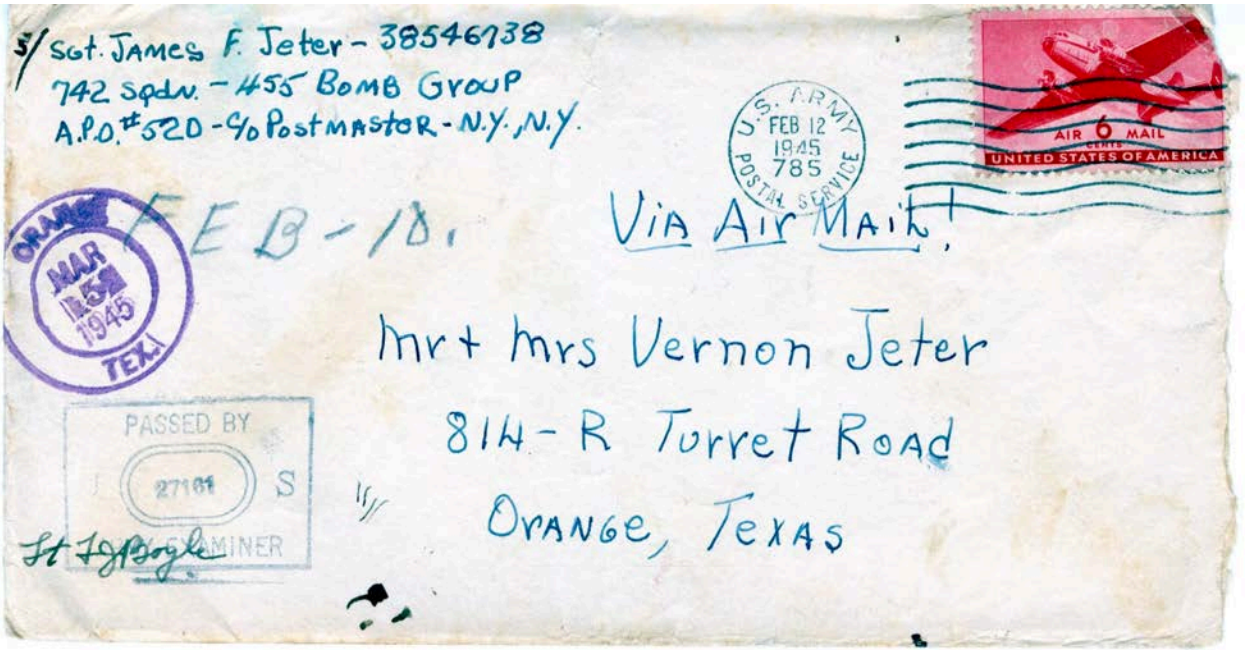
Page 8

around these parts these days!
Am writing in the evening so I can
go to the show tonight, try to see all
the shows because thats about all the
entertainment we have but they do have
some darn good shows here.
Well, darlings guess I'll close for this
time but I'll write again soon and
try to have a bit more news next
time. Wanted to be sure to wish you

a very happy birthday Mom and let you
two know I will + safe and that I'm
thinking of you and loving you more
all the time.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 21


5/ Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546138
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
FEB 12
1945
785
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ORANGE
MAR
1945
TEX.
FEB - 10.
Via Air Mail
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas
PASSED BY
27161
S
EXAMINER

1.

February 10, 1945
Saturday evening
Somewhere in Italy

My dearest Mom & Pop;

Howes the two people I love so much getting along these days? Judging from your letters you two have been as fine as cat hair and I sure like to know that you are all feeling fine and getting along fine. I've been pretty busy the last few day and have gotten behind on my letter writing. I am doing my best to catch up to day though, am going to write you, Dot, and Lois, Della and a couple of V-mail while I have some time off. I have been getting your letters swell and have recieved two air mails and two V-mails the last 3 days and I really am enjoying those sweet letters, its wonderful of you two to write me so often and I appreciate it very much. I just hope you enjoy my letters as much as I do yours.

Have whittled those missions down one more since I wrote you last and now I have twenty-seven to go. Made it just fine, didn't have a single bit of trouble and no one recieved even a scratch. The only difference in me was that I was dog tired as I always am after a long flight. Course they did shoot at us a bit but they didn't even come close. The Good Lord does hear our prayers and rides in our airplane on every mission we make. It won't be to long before we will get them whittled right down to nothing and thats the day I am

living for. The Russians have really been going to town and so have our armies and air forces, gee hope we can soon end this war here and also with Japan - then we can all come home for good!

Received the stamps and lamp wicks and I do thank you so very much for them - the wicks were the cats pajamas and I put them right in my lamps and boy do they work swell! The next box you send me you can put in a couple of lamp burners if you will and can find them, you know the part the wick goes in and holds the globe. The ones I have are terrible & the cost about $3 over here, but please don't go to any trouble to send them or anything else for that matter. The paper and envelopes you send are swell and I get some in your letters real often and boy do I appreciate it! Things like that are next to impossible to get and when we get something like that, we and especially me, really do appreciate it!

See, I'm so glad you all like your little apartment so well, know it beats the socks off the Broussard place and I'm glad you have plenty of gas now I know your neighbor lady is a lot of company and that you are glad to have someone to pass away the time with. See, I just see how any son could just write his folks only every two or three weeks, guess he doesn't love them as I do you because I feel bad when I go more than three days without writing, wish I could write every day to the

ones I love with all my heart.

I do thanks you so much for all the things you send me and a package from home in our tent is quite an event and we make quite an event of it, just like Christmas. Naturally what we want most of all is food in any form, cakes, candies, cookies, just anything like that and we immediately start plans for a big feast. We get bread from the mess hall and toast it on our stove and have a snack before bedtime every night. Thanks a lot in advance for the packages you sent, should receive them any day now and naturally I'll write and let you know just as soon as I get them, you can also throw in a bottle or box of aspirin in the next package!

See, Papa was right when he said a bird never flew so high but what he didn't land and it looks like Horace and Amy hit with quite a plop! See, he sure did screw up the works when he plunged into the home buying and defence work didn't he. I'll bet Amy is come to earth now and started breathing the same air as everybody else. Although I know it's what should happen I do feel sorry for Horace because in spite of his faults I liked him and Mr Broussard. I can imagine they are mad about the horse racing being stopped and I think it's the best thing that could have happened, maybe now he won't lose everything on them & will turn to his

farming more.

Hope Aunt Thelma is better and her neck and voice are much better. See, she was certainly lucky that they caught that goiter before it did develop into cancer. See, she has had a lot of bad luck, maybe its all over now and she will have smooth sailing for a while, hope so anyway. You said Thelma + Ray had heard from Jr. but I don't know who you mean, Jr. who?

Well, darling, I know this isn't much of a letter, as usual but I guess I'd better close and write my "Sweet potatoes" and a couple of others to whom I owe letters. Letter writing is really a problem for me because news is so awfully scarce here and them what news we do pick up, half is forbidden due to censorship. I just have to write once in a while to let you know I'm getting along swell and loving you more all the time. Will write again very soon.

Your some loving son,

James Ferrell

(over)

P.S.

am enclosing a few clippings out of our newspaper here and also a calender put out by our squadron & group, thought you would enjoy them.

Letter 21

Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Feb 12
1945
785

Page 1

February 10, 1945
Saturday evening
Somewhere in Italy

My dearest Mom + Pop,

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Japan - then we can all come home for good!
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you so very much for them- the wicks were the cats
pajamas and I put them right in my lamps and boy
do they work swell! The next box you send me you
can put in a couple of lamp burners if you will and
can find them, you know the part the wick goes in
and holds the globe. The ones I have are terrible + they
cost about $3 over here, but please don't go to any trouble
to send them or anything else for that matter. The paper
and envelopes you send are swell and I get some in
your letters real often and boy do I appreciate it!
Things like that are next to impossoble to get and when
we get something like that, we and especially me,
really do appreciate it!
Gee, I'm so glad you all like your little apartment
so well, know it treats the socks off the Broussard
place and I'm glad you have p;enty of gas now. I
know your neighbor lady is a lot of company and
that you are glad to have someone to pass away
the time with. Gee, I just see how any son could
just write his folks only every two or three weeks,
guess he doesn't love them as I do you because
I feel bad when I go more than three days with
out writing, wish I could write every day to the

Page 3

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Page 4

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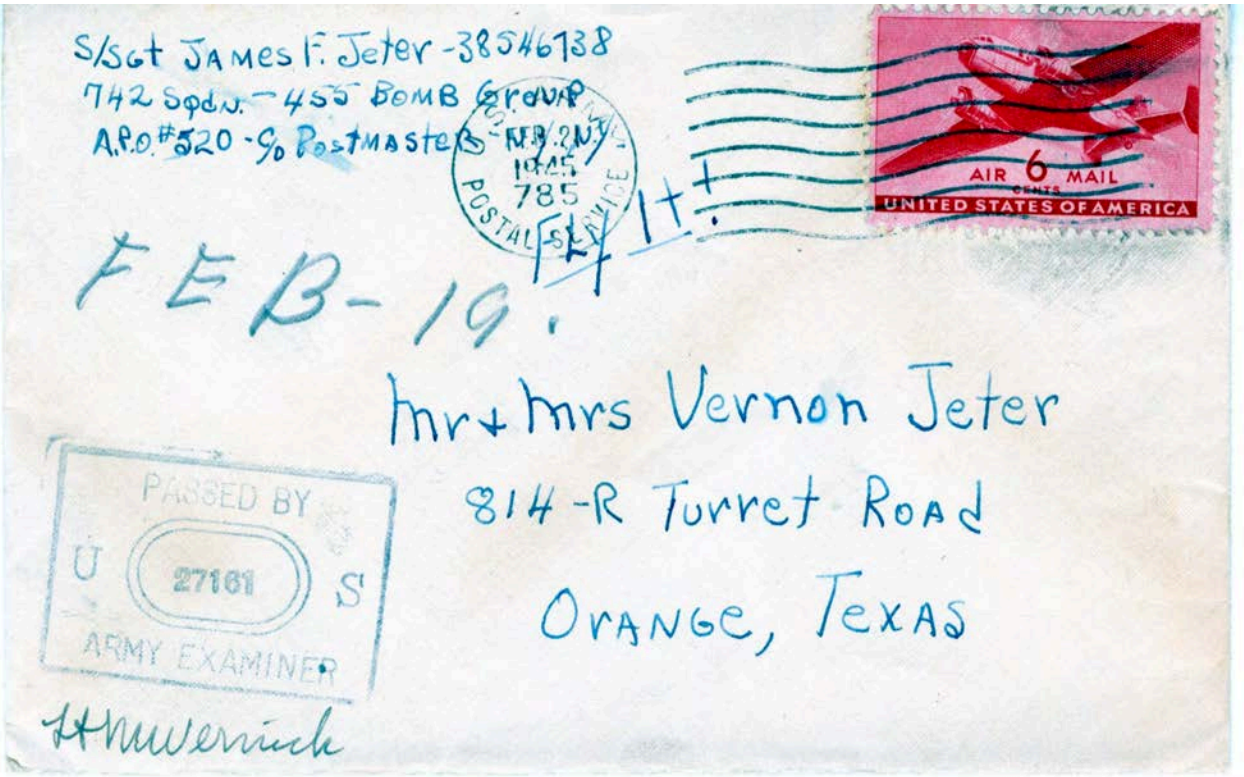
Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

(over)

Page 5

P.S.
am enclosing a few clippings out of our newspaper here and also a calendar put out by our squadron + group, thought you would enjoy them.

Letter 22



S/Sgt James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y.C.

FEB 19 1945 785

AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PASSED BY
U 27161 S
ARMY EXAMINER

Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

February 19, 1945
Monday night
I n Italy

My dearest Mom & Pop,

Well, hows the sweetest two people in the world these days? Hope you are well and getting along fine. As for me I am swell and feeling as fit as a fiddle, couldn't be doing any better over here. The weather has been swell and real spring weather and I've really been enjoying it too. All the fellows are feeling swell also, although we all have been working hard. Fact is I'm about pooped out right now myself and my ole sack (bed to you) is calling me but I have waited several days in writing you and I'm going to do it right now.

Well, we are doing all right by ourselves as far as missions are concerned. We are

2.

now a wee bit better than 1/3 done as we have 12 missions in now and 23 to go! Made them all just fine and the only differance in any of us was that we were all dog tired after each one but that soon wears off. They were really easy ones and we didn't even see flak or get shot at, hope the other 23 will be as easy!

To-day has been quite a day with me to-day as I was presented the Air Medal and made Staff Sargeant! Had to dress up all slick + the Squadron Commanding Officer gave the Medal out and shook hands + congratulated me, really big stuff. The Medal is a very beautiful thing and I'm proud of it, wish you could see it. Now that I'm a Staff Sgt. I'll make about $25 dollars or so more a month and therefore I'll be able to send just that much more home for Dot to save, hope to send quite a bit

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn.- 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Feb 19 VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Feb 21
1945
785

Page 1

February 19, 1945
Monday night
In Italy

My dearest Mom & Pop;

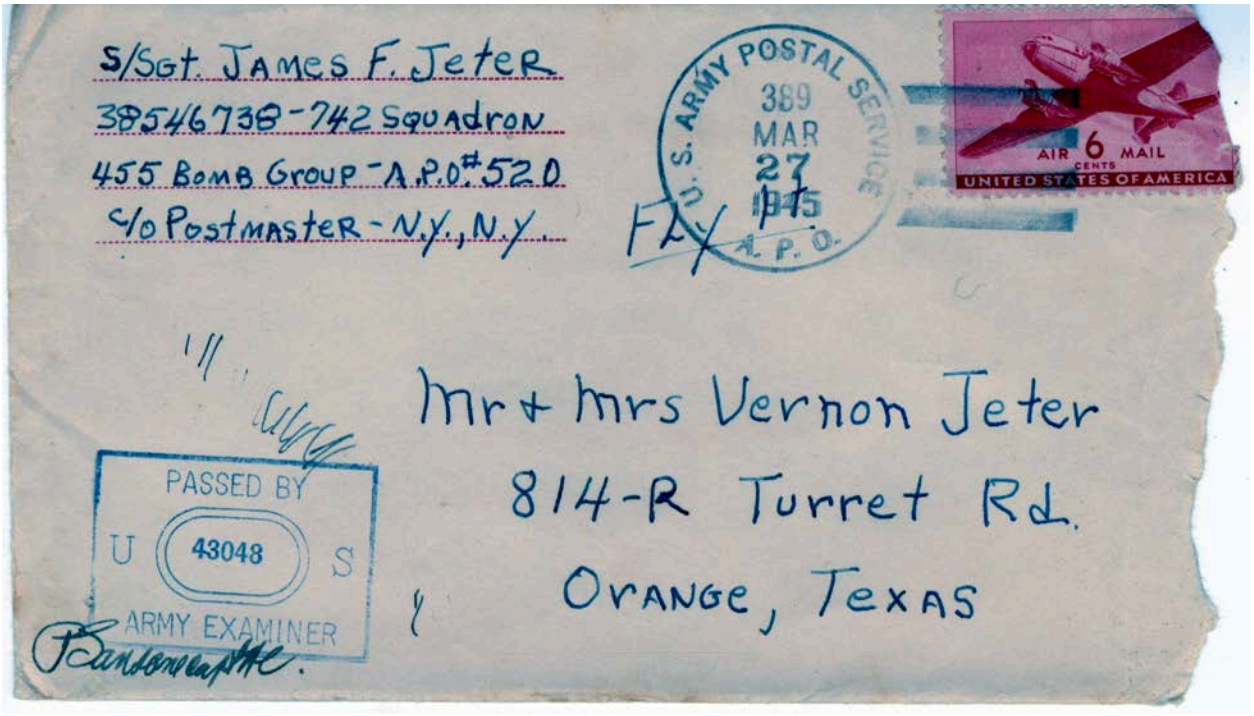
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Well, we are doing all right by ourselves as for as missions are concerned. We are

Page 2

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Dot to save, hope to send quite a bit

Letter 23


S/Sgt. James F. Jeter
38546738 - 742 Squadron
455 Bomb Group - A.P.O. #520
c/o Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
389
MAR
27
1945
A.P.O.
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PASSED BY
U 43048 S
ARMY EXAMINER
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Rd.
Orange, Texas

AMERICAN RED CROSS

March 25, 1945
Sunday night
Hospital in Italy

Dearest Mom & Pop;

Well, things are the same as ever here with me, no news except what I got out of your letters I recieved last night. Gee, it certainly was grand to recieve some mail from the ones I love again! It had been almost three weeks since I had any mail at all and I was really hungary for some. I read every one of them twice and some more than that, I did so enjoy them. Gee, it was sweet of you Dad to write me a V-Mail every day that Mom was away and I appreciate your writing from Meridian to Mom as I know you hardly had time, I really appreciate how sweet you two darlings have been in writing, I know I have the bestest and grandest parents in the whole world & I'm so proud to be

FORM 539 A

your son. I hope you enjoy my letters one half as much as I do yours. My arm is getting better all the time, feels like I could use it as good as always but I guess it takes a bit longer than two weeks. I'm eager to get a new smaller & lighter cast on so I'll have more use of my hand. Will keep you posted on all changes as they develop, just you two not worry and I'll be up and at them again before you know it, get those remaining missions in and get home early this summer.

Think I told you about getting the package didn't I? Will open it as soon as I get back to the base where I can get at it. Its in good shape from what the fellows say. I can hardly wait to get at it, know I will enjoy and love everything, I want to thank you two for everything, I do love you both so very much.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you, I have an Oak Leaf Cluster to the air medal now, which means that I have been awarded the air medal again. You can see on the picture I'm enclosing in this letter the ribbon for the medal and also the cluster. The three ribbons under my wings are - left to right - air medal, the little bright spot is the Oak Leaf Cluster, middle one is the Good Conduct Ribbon and the last on the right is the Africa - Italy - Germany campaign ribbon. The picture is just a cheap Italian one but I hope you like it darlings, the guys say it's just like me - oh me.

Hey Dad, from the way you wrote about the meal the lady across the hall brought over, you must have really stuffed yourself. Sure wish I could tap into some of Mom's!

FORM 539 A

4.

Glad the little ole Ford is still up and going right along, it has sure been a wonderful car, bet you never get another one that will last as long, hope the Plymouth will be ½ as good! Boy, second hand cars are way out of sight in price I guess now, maybe this war will soon be over and they will release some new ones to everybody. I sure hope I can get me a jeep when I get out of the army. It will be a grand car for fishing & hunting and a top notch work car!

Recieved a letter from Otwell and he was in England waiting to go home, he was thinking about the Longview Hospital also, sure will be great if he can get there. He was in fine spirits and was just as eager to get home as I am. Wish I could see him & meet his wife and baby.

2.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

I enjoyed the clippings and there is no need for me to know how to churn as the only milk around Italy is in cans that came over from the States, we call it "Galvanized Gurney". I can hardly wait to get those good ole sardines, know they will be delicious. I hate to know you are smoking Bull Durhams, wish I could send you some smokes. I get plenty, in fact I have an extra carton on hand. Guess I'll have to save them & bring them back to the states with me.

Say, those new boats you are building must really be honeys. From what you say they must be Jap killers de-luxe. I sure wish I could see one of them. Maybe they will let you take me in the yard when I get home on that thirty day furlough reckon they would let you do that, I hope so.

FORM 539 A

6.

I really do appreciate your sending me the aspirin because that's one thing the army medical branch won't give us and they are the stuff for a head ach caused by high altitude flying, they knock one right out for me, thanks again Darling.

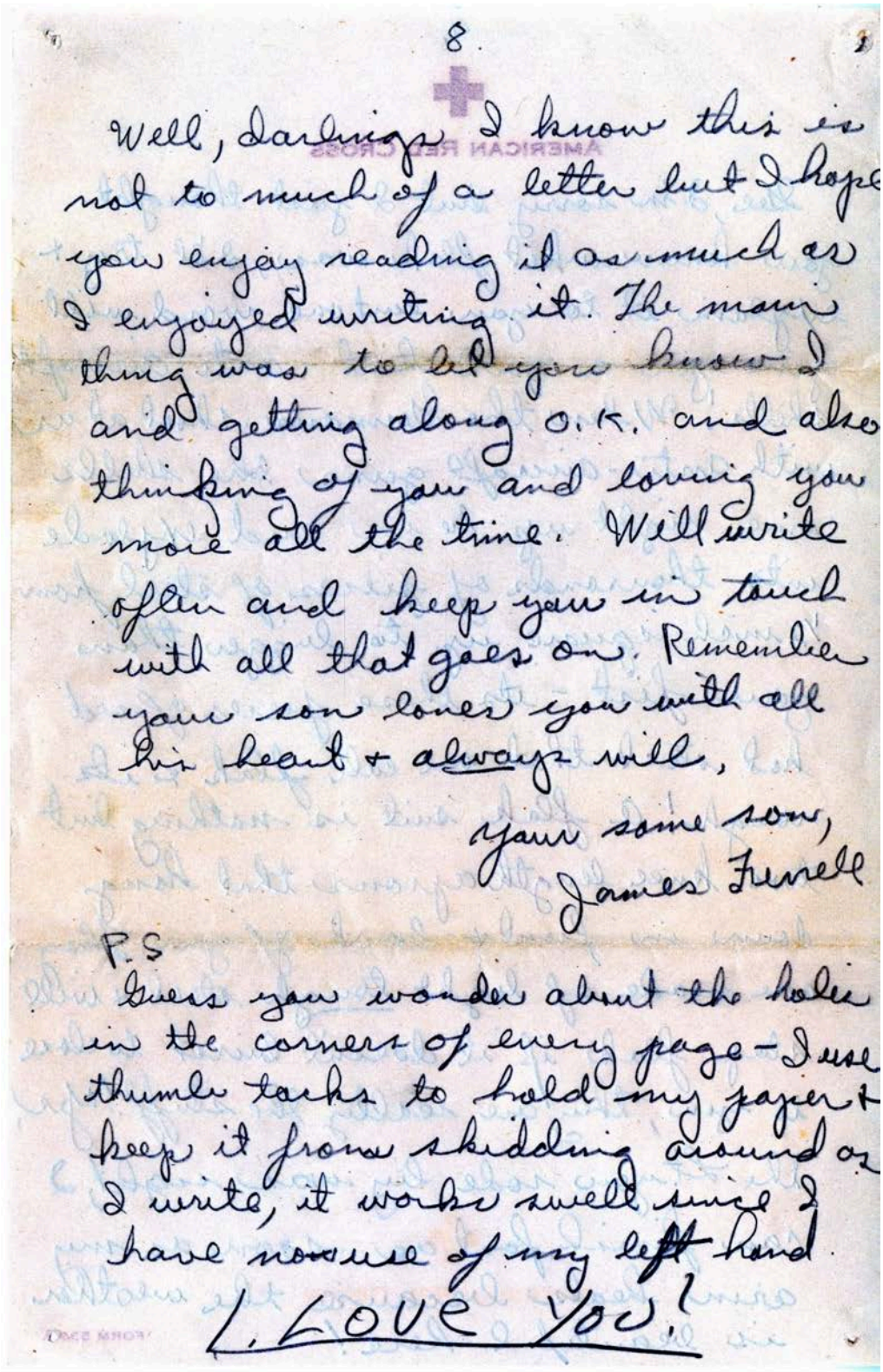
Glad you liked the little calender I sent you, it was printed by our group especially to send to the folks back home. I thought it was real nice and I thought you would. Notice the picture of the church on the last page - see the name - well —. That's me.

I'm glad you told me who Jr is, I didn't know it was Jr. Waldrop. I'm glad he is coming along all right, he will probably be good as new soon. I'm glad Aunt Thelma is getting better, I hope she won't have to have any more operations.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

See, I'm sorry but I just thought you knew what flak was, I'll try + explain it to you but one word will give you a good hint - anti-aircraft shells! When the Germans shoot at us with anti-aircraft guns the shells come right up to us and explode into thousands of pieces of steel from ½ inch square up to bigger than your fist - its these pieces of red hot steel that we call flak + its rough! A flak suit is nothing but two knee length aprons that hang down in front + back of you. They are made of light tough steel + will stop flak if it doesn't burst to close to you, they are really the stuff! Yes, the Lt. you rode by was right, I can finish fast as soon as my arm heals because the weather is beautiful here!

FORM 539



8.

Well, darlings I know this is not to much of a letter but I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. The main thing was to let you know I and getting along O.K. and also thinking of you and loving you more all the time. Will write often and keep you in touch with all that goes on. Remember your son loves you with all his heart + always will,

your some son,
James Ferrell

P.S
Guess you wonder about the holes in the corners of every page - I use thumb tacks to hold my paper + keep it from skidding around as I write, it works swell since I have no use of my left hand.

I LOVE YOU!

Letter 23

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter
38546738 - 742 Squadron
455 Bomb Group- A.P.O. #520
% Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
43048
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Mar
27
1945

Page 1

March 25, 1945
Sunday Night
Hospital in Italy

Dearest Mom + Pop;

Well, things are the same as ever here with me, not news except what I got out of your letters I recieved last night. Gee, it certainly was grand to recieve some mail from the ones I love again! It had been almost three weeks since I had any mail at all and I was really hungary for some. I read every one of them twice and some more than that, I did so enjoy them. Gee, it was sweet of you Dad to write me a V-mail every day that Mom was away and I appreciate your writing from Meridian to mom and know you hardly had time, I really appreciate how sweet you two darlings

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letters one half as much as I do yours.
My arm is getting better all the
time, feels like I could use it as good
as always but I guess it takes a
bit longer than two weeks. I'm eager
to get a new smaller + lighter cast
on so I'll have more use of my hand.
Will keep you posted on all changes
as they develop, just you two not
worry and I'll be up and at them
again before you know it, get
those remaining missions in and
get home early this summer.
Think I told you about getting
the package didn't I? Will open it
as soon as I get back to the
base where I can get at it. Its in
good shape from what the fellows
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at it, know I will enjoy and
love everything, I want to thank
you two for everything, I do love
you both so very much.

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an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal
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awarded the Air Medal again. You can
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Air Medal, the little bright spot in the Oak
Leaf Cluster, middle one is the Good
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Page 6

I really do appreciate your sending me the aspirin because thats one thing the army medical branch wont give us and they are the stuff for a headach caused by high altitude flying, they knock one night out for me, thanks again darlings.

Glad you liked the little calender I sent you, it was printed by our group especially to send to the folks back home. I thought it was really nice and I thought you would. Notice the picture of the church on the last page - see the name- well- thats me.

I'm glad you told me who Jr is, I didn't know it was Jr. Waldrop. I'm glad he is coming along all right, he will probably be good as new soon. I'm glad Aunt Thelma is getting better, I hope she won't have to have any more operations.

Page 7

Gee, I'm sorry but I just thought
you knew what flak was, I'll try +
explain it to you but one word will
give you a good hint- anti-aircraft
shells! When the Germans shoot at us
with anti-aircraft guns the shells
come right up to us and explode
into thousands of pieces of steel from
1/2 inch square up to bigger than
your fist - its these pieces of red
hot steel that we call flak + its
rough! A flack suit is nothing but
two knee length aprons that hang
down in front + back of you. They
are made of light tough steel + will
stop flak if it doesn't burst to close
to you, they are really the stuff! Yes,
the Lt. you rode by was right, I
can finish fast as soon as my
arm heals because the weather
is beautiful here!

Page 8

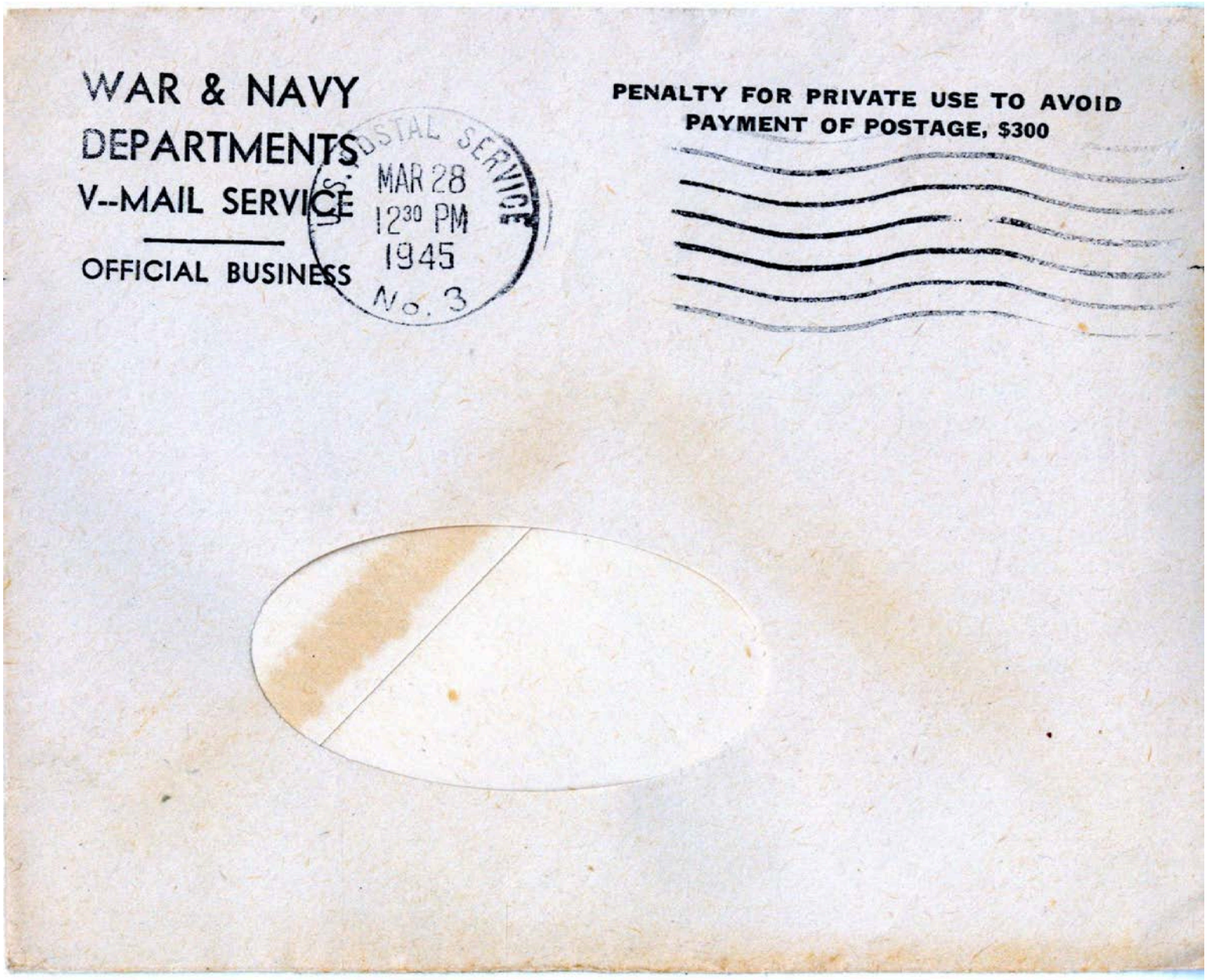
Well, darlings I know this is
not to much of a letter but I hope
you enjoy reading it as much as
I enjoyed writing it. The main
thing was to let you know I
and getting along O.K. and also
thinking of you and loving you
more all the time. Will write
often and keep you in touch
with all that goes on. Remember
your son loves you with all
his heart + always will.

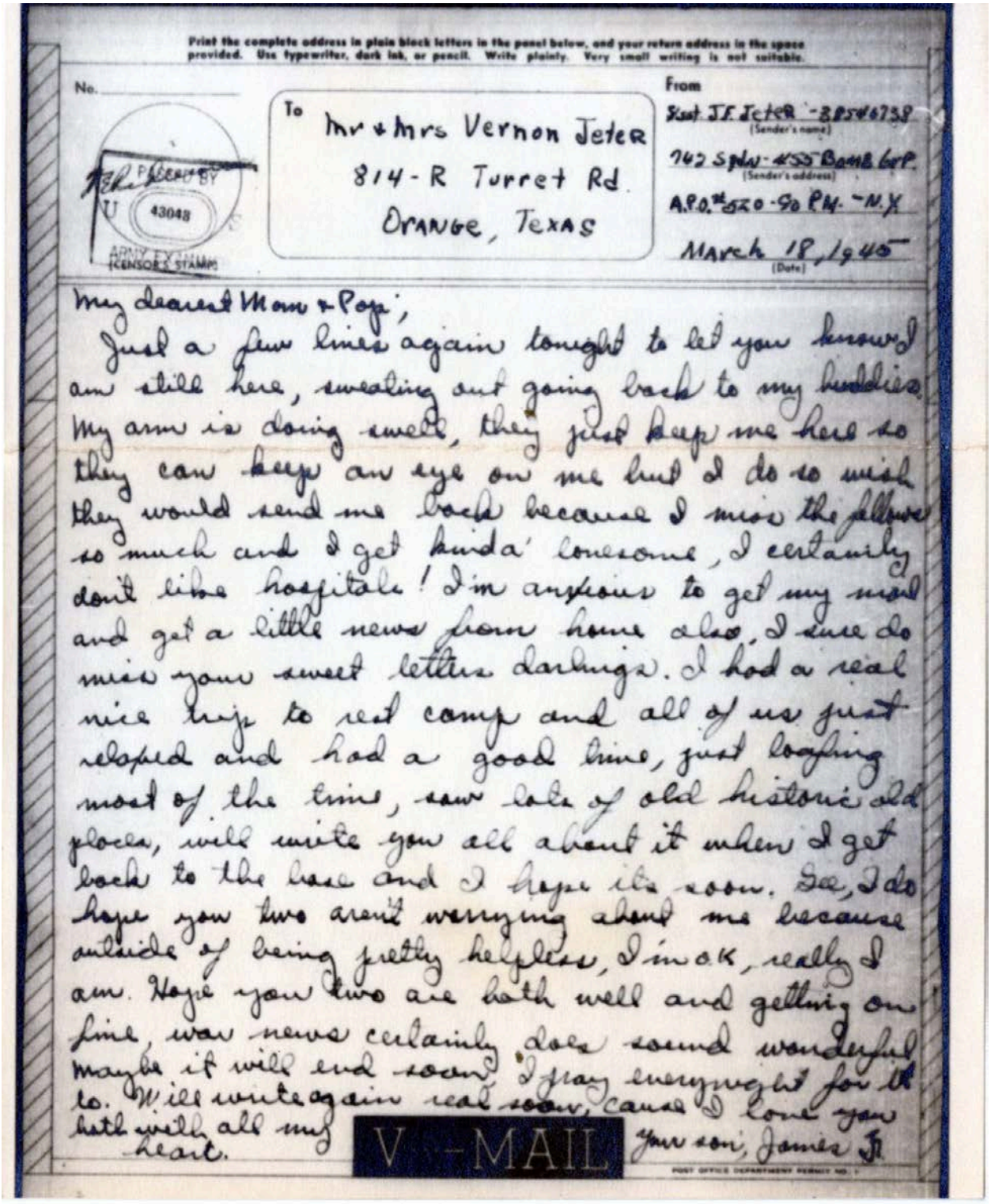
Your same on,
James Ferrell

P.S.
Guess you wonder about the holes
in the corners of every page- I use

thumb tacks to hold my paper +
keep it from skidding around as
I write, it works swell since I
have no use of my left hand.
I LOVE YOU!

Letter 24


WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
MAR 28
12 30 PM
1945
No. 3
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300



Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

To Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Rd.
Orange, Texas

From
Sgt J.F. Jeter -38546738
(Sender's name)
742 Sqdn-455 Bomb Grp.
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. #520-c/o P.M.-N.Y.
March 18, 1945
(Date)

PASSED BY U 43048 ARMY EXAMINER CENSOR'S STAMP

My dearest Mom & Pop,

Just a few lines again tonight to let you know I am still here, sweating out going back to my buddies. My arm is doing swell, they just keep me here so they can keep an eye on me but I do so wish they would send me back because I miss the fellows so much and I get kinda' lonesome, I certainly don't like hospitals! I'm anxious to get my mail and get a little news from home also, I sure do miss your sweet letters darlings. I had a real nice trip to rest camp and all of us just relaxed and had a good time, just loafing most of the time, saw lots of old historic old places, will write you all about it when I get back to the base and I hope its soon. See, I do hope you two aren't worrying about me because outside of being pretty helpless, I'm O.K., really I am. Hope you two are both well and getting on fine, war news certainly does sound wonderful maybe it will end soon. I pray everynight for it to. Will write again real soon, cause I love you both with all my heart.

V-MAIL

Your son, James Jr.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 1

Letter 24

War & Navy

Departments
V-Mail Service

US Postal Service
March 28
12:30 PM
1945
No. 3

Page 1

Passed by
US
43048
Army Examiner

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

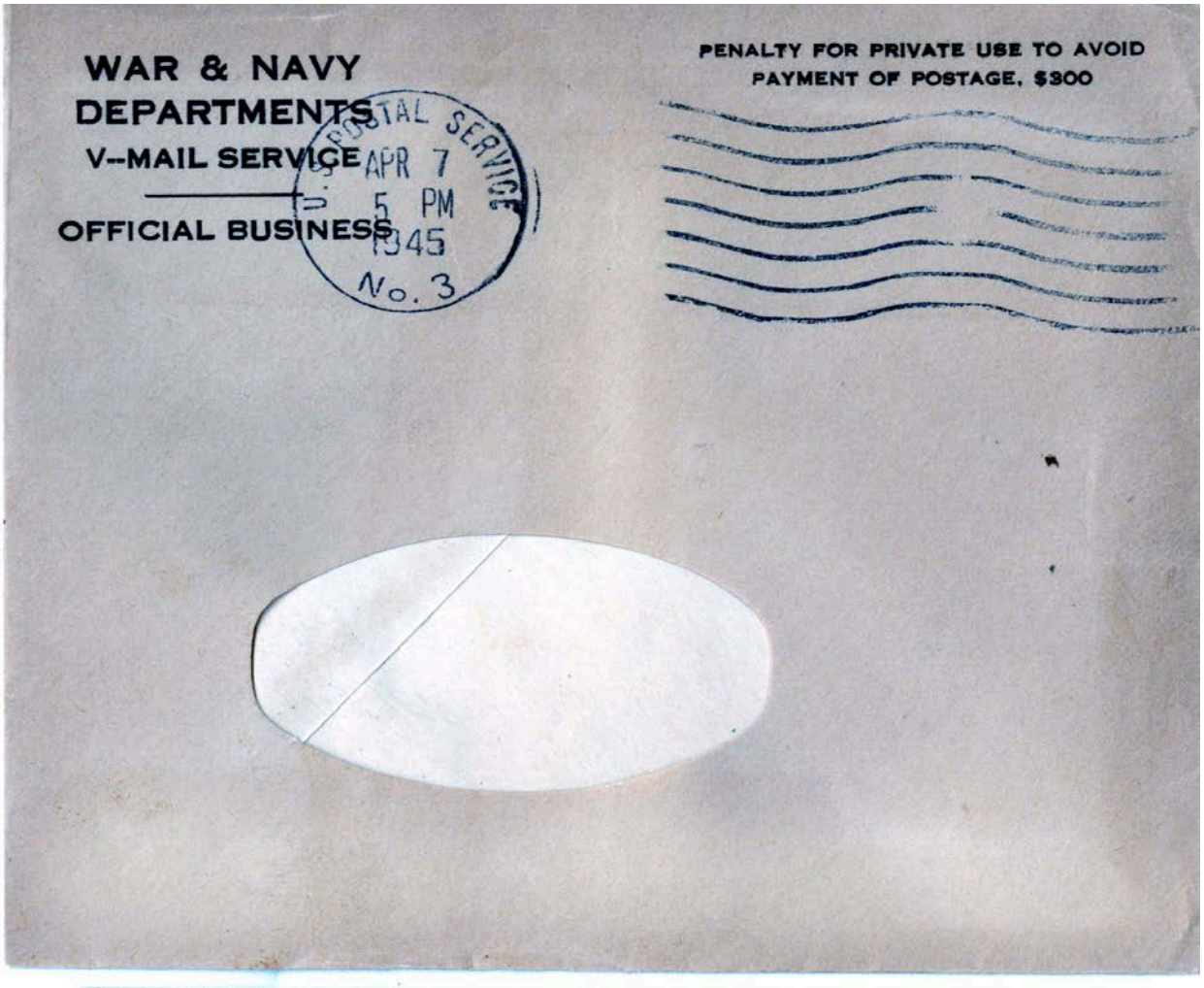
S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 % P.M.
March 18, 1945

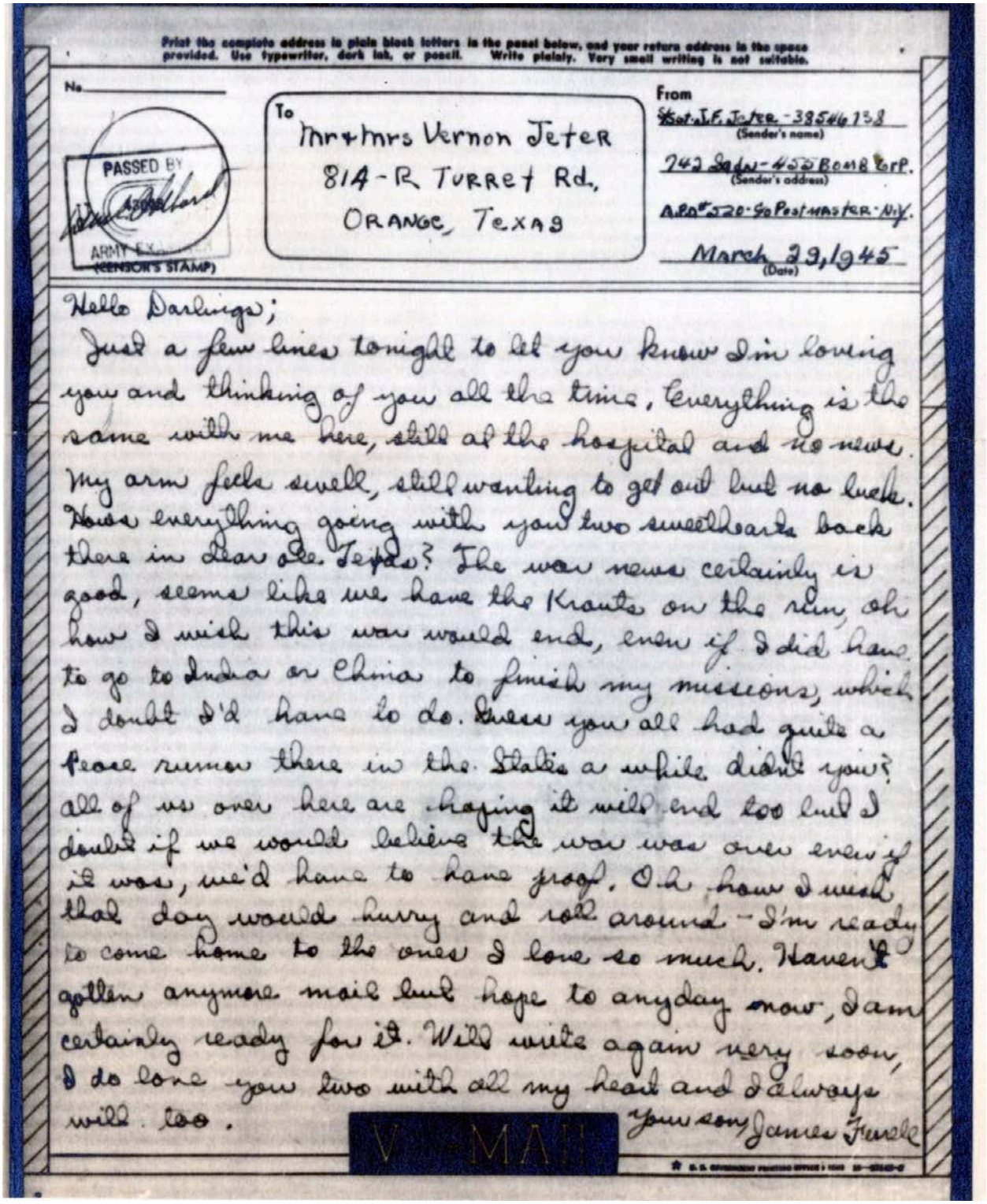
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heart.

Your son, James F.

Letter 25


WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
APR 7
5 PM
1945
No. 3
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300



Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

PASSED BY ARMY EX. (CENSOR'S STAMP)

To
Mr+Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Rd.
Orange, Texas

From
Sgt. J.F. Jeter - 38546138
(Sender's name)
742 Sqdn - 455 Bomb Grp.
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. 520 - Co Postmaster - N.Y.
March 29, 1945
(Date)

Hello Darlings;

Just a few lines tonight to let you know I'm loving you and thinking of you all the time, Everything is the same with me here, still at the hospital and no news. My arm feels swell, still wanting to get out but no luck. Hows everything going with your two sweethearts back there in dear ole Texas? The war news certainly is good, seems like we have the Krauts on the run, oh how I wish this war would end, even if I did have to go to India or China to finish my missions, which I doubt I'd have to do. Guess you all had quite a peace rumor there in the States a while didn't you? all of us over here are hoping it will end too but I doubt if we would believe the war was over even if it was, we'd have to have proof. O.h. how I wish that day would hurry and roll around - I'm ready to come home to the ones I love so much. Haven't gotten anymore mail but hope to anyday now, I am certainly ready for it. Will write again very soon, I do love you two with all my heart and I always will. too.

V-MAIL

Your son James Frank

★ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 35—42540-2

Letter 25

War & Navy
Departments

V-Mail Service

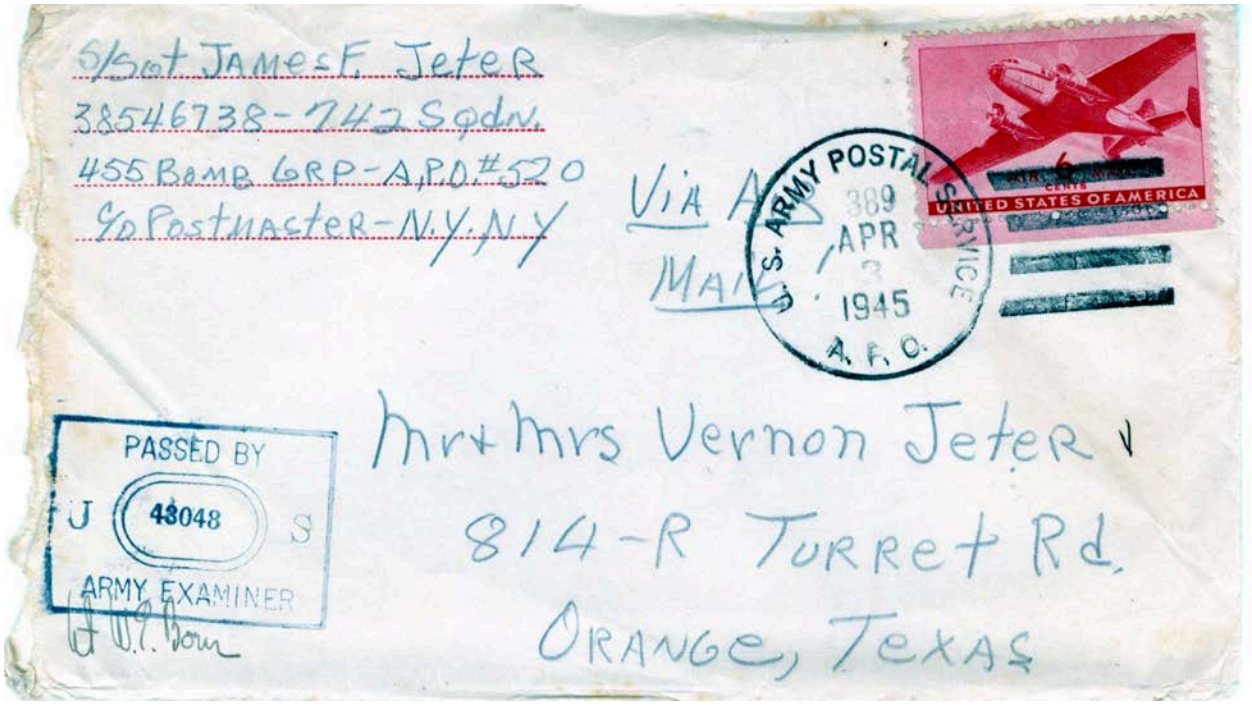
US Postal Service
Apr 7
5 PM
1945
No. 3

Page 1
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

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A.P.O. #520 % P.M.
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Letter 26


S/Sgt JAMES F. JETER
38546738-742 Sqdn.
455 BOMB GRP-A.P.O.#520
C/O Postmaster-N.Y.N.Y
VIA AIR MAIL
U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
3 APR 1945
A.P.O.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PASSED BY
J 43048 S
ARMY EXAMINER
Mr+Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Rd.
ORANGE, TEXAS

AMERICAN RED CROSS

March 31, 1945
Saturday night
Hospital

Dearest Mom + Pop;

Not much to say, there never is in a hospital I guess, not after three weeks anyway. I always like to write my darlings an Air Mail once in a while though because I know you must get awfully tired of V-Mails.

Everything is still the same here with me, just laying around the hospital waiting for this arm to heal up so I can get out. I have just about given up hope of getting out before it is taken out of the cast. Was in hopes it would be O.K. to go back and let it knit back at camp but I guess it isn't. They are going to put on a lighter and smaller cast next Monday and it

FORM 539 A

AMERICAN RED CROSS

will be a lot better for me then. The Dr. says it should be 3 to 5 weeks more before I can fly again, I sure will be glad when I can too, I sure want to get these last 18 in fast and get home.

Received three letters from you yesterday and also an Easter Greeting certainly did enjoy them and they sure helped my Moral! I enjoyed Capt. Marrisons letter and am sending it back by Free mail as my stamps arent to plentiful.

Boy, the war news certainly does sound good, hope it won't be long before its all over so all our resources can be thrown against Japan and knock her out in a hurry so we can all come home to stay. If I don't get all my missions in here, I may have to get the rest in some other place but its doubtful since I have so many in here.

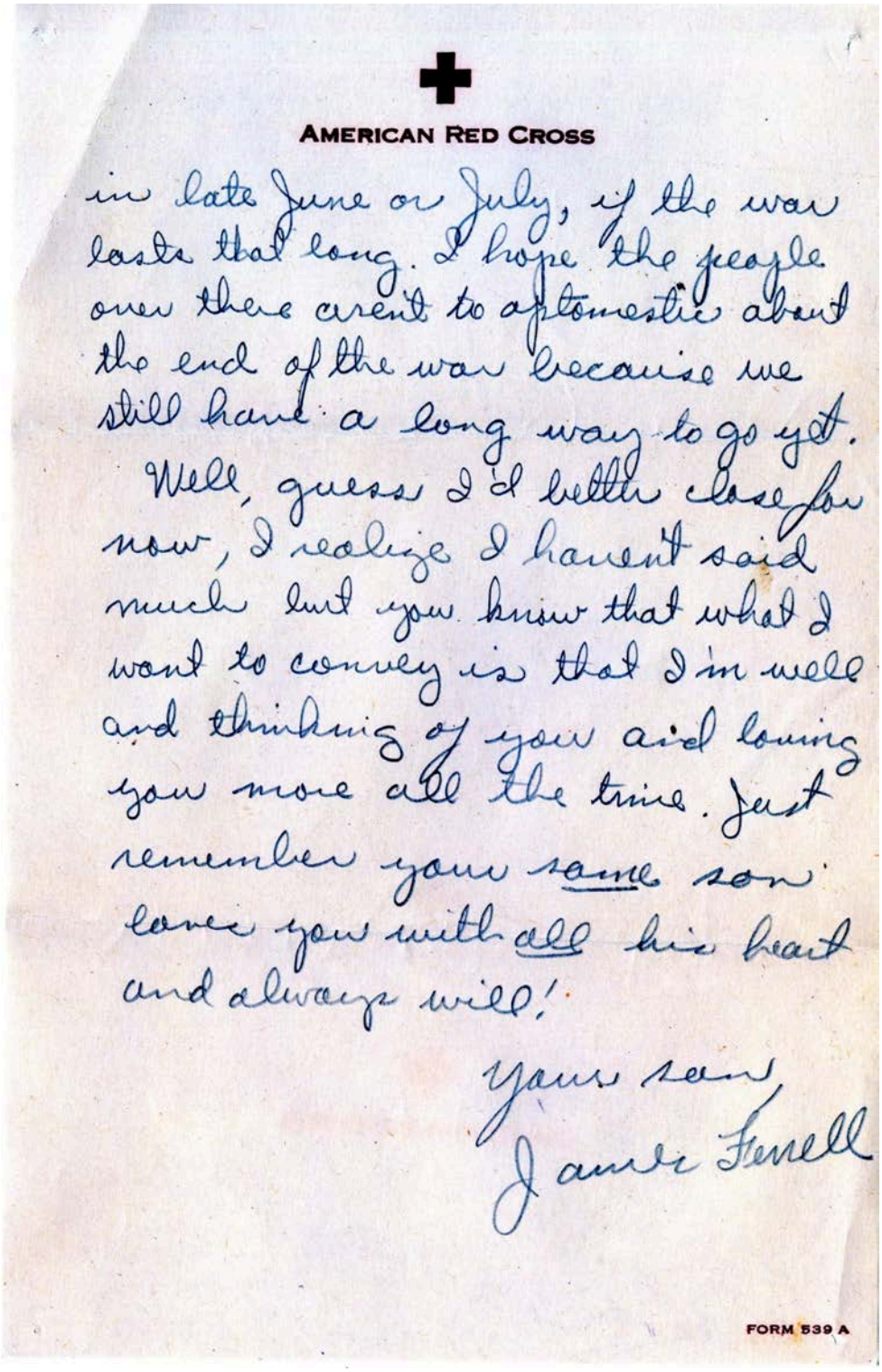
FORM 539 A

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Boy those new boats you are now building must really be honeys! I sure want to try to see one with you when I get back home. From the way the Navy is pouring it on the Japs those boats you are building are getting in some real licks at them. Say our Navy is really going to town over there, it can't end too soon to suit me.

I haven't heard from the fellows in a good while now, don't know how many more missions they have in now, sure wish I was up there with them. The army sure has thrown a kink in my plans to get home in May but I still plan on getting home early this summer, probably

FORM 539 A



AMERICAN RED CROSS

in late June or July, if the war lasts that long. I hope the people over there aren't to optomestic about the end of the war because we still have a long way to go yet.

Well, guess I'd better close for now, I realize I haven't said much but you know that what I want to convey is that I'm well and thinking of you and loving you more all the time. Just remember your same son loves you with all his heart and always will!

Your son,
James Jeter

FORM 539 A

Letter 26

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter

38546738 - 742 Squadron
455 Bomb Group- A.P.O. #520
% Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
43048
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Apr
3
1945

Page 1

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Saturday night
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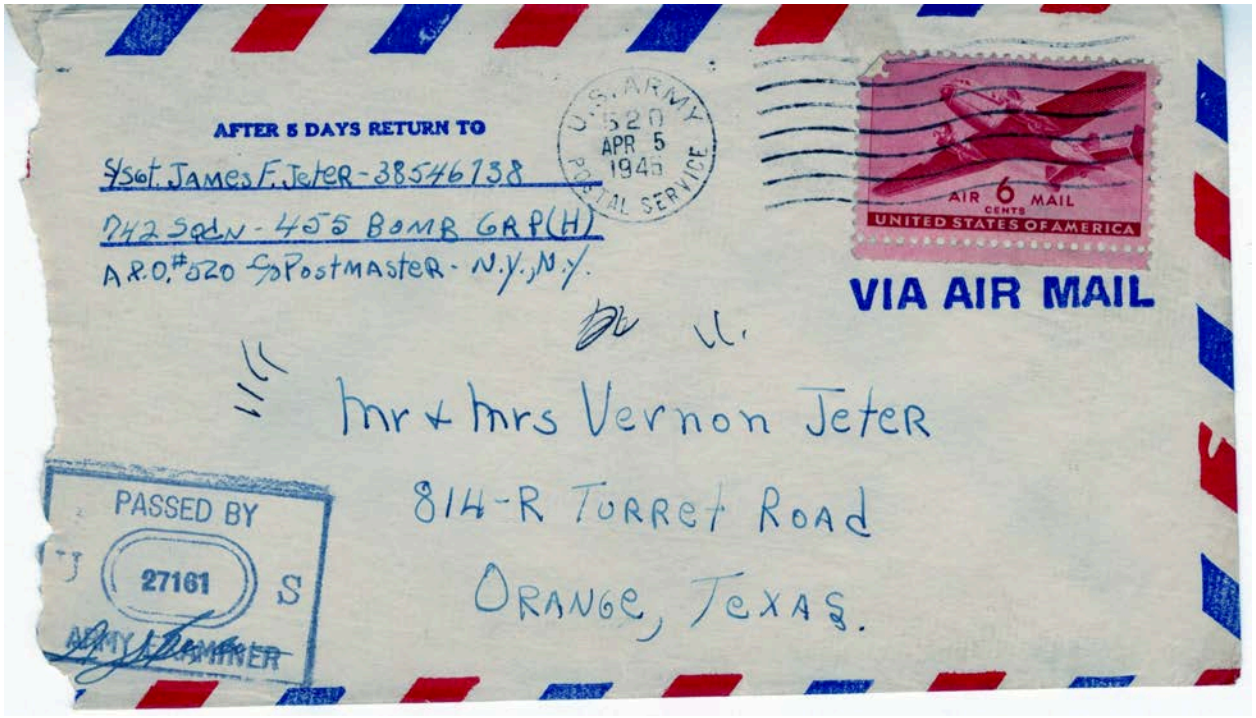
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Page 4

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the end of the war because we
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remember your same son
loved you with all his heart
and always will!

Your son,
James Ferrell

Letter 27


AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO
S/Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546138
742 Sqdn - 455 Bomb Grp(H)
A.P.O. #520 c/o Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
520
APR 5
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA AIR MAIL
Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas.
PASSED BY
27161
ARMY EXAMINER

April 4, 1945
Wednesday eve
at the base

Dearest Mom & Pop;

Well here I am, back at the base again and believe you me its really swell being back with the fellows! They flew down after the mission they were supposed to fly was called off and got me and boy was I glad to see them walk in that room! I knew immediately that they were after me and I couldnt get ready to fast for me. It didnt take but a few minutes by plane to get back and it would have taken hours by car or truck and I was dreading that ride. The fellows were really glad to have me back and I was really glad to see them! Bob, Capt Morrison, Billy, J. W. & Capt Blackmun (our Dr here) were all really pulling for me and they really worked hard to get me out and I'd still be there if it wasnt for them. They went through a lot of trouble getting a plane and all to

come after me and I certainly did appreciate it, I'll never forget how swell they were as long as I live. Its grand to have friends like that and I thank God for them. Capt. Morrison was certainly grand and I went right to see him and thank him for all he did, he was awfully glad to see me back and the fellows said he did all he possibly could to get me out as quick as possible. Capt Blackmun the Doctor here, really went to bat for me also + he didn't even know me personally but since I was under his supervision he took a personal interest and even flew down to the hospital with them to get all the first hand information about my arm from the doctors there - he was really swell!

My arm is lots better and since I have that smaller cast on, its given me even less trouble. I can use it pretty darn good and doing better all the time. Course there is still lots of things I can't do but all the guys are swell to help me. They know

I dont want to be babied and they don't try to do everything for me but wait and let me ask for help. They are more than glad to help then and thats the way I want it, do all I can for myself, makes me feel better then. Capt Blackmun said he thought the cast could come off in a week or 10 days and they would start giveing the arm exercises, massages and sun lamp treatments. He said it was healing exceptionally well & didn't think there would be a single after effect, which pleased me no end. He also said he thought I could fly again in about three weeks & I really hope so as I'm eager to fly again.

Recieved a letter from you to-day and also the clippings & stamps and enjoyed them all as I always do. Was glad to hear that you were all well and not worrying about me because as you say, Gods will is the best and we must accept these things as His will and I for one have done that.

all the fellows are well and healthy and only like eleven more missions, lucky guys! I may get well in time to fly a couple with them but I'll never catch them now but I'm glad they are so near done. I am at least here where I can keep up with what's going on and sweat out their missions.

Hope the weather has cleared up so you can go fishing, know you two are ready for it. The weather is beautiful here and it's really spring, everything is so green & blooms everywhere, sure makes me want to go fishing or hunting myself. When all this mess is over and we take our long vacation, we certainly will have to make up for lost time won't we?

From the way our boys and the Red Army is hitting the Germans, I just don't know they can keep from folding up any day now. It will be a grand day indeed when they quit, them a lot of the fellows

can come home and to me can them start hitting those Japs with everything in the book! When that day comes, I just don't see how they can hold out as they are taking a terrible pasting right now, especially by the Navy and those B-29's, wow! they are really letting them have it aren't they?

Well, darlings I know I haven't said much but now you know I'm back at camp and feeling a hundred percent better and loving you all the more! I'll write again very soon, just remember I love you two and always will!

Your loving son, always
James Ferrell

P.S.
The package was swell, the jelly wasn't broken or anything and it really was swell with toast and the pecans were good because you know how I like them. We all enjoyed them, still have some jelly left and I do thanks you so very much.

Letter 27

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

VIA Air Mail!

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Apr
5
1945

Page 1

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Page 3

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Page 4

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Page 5

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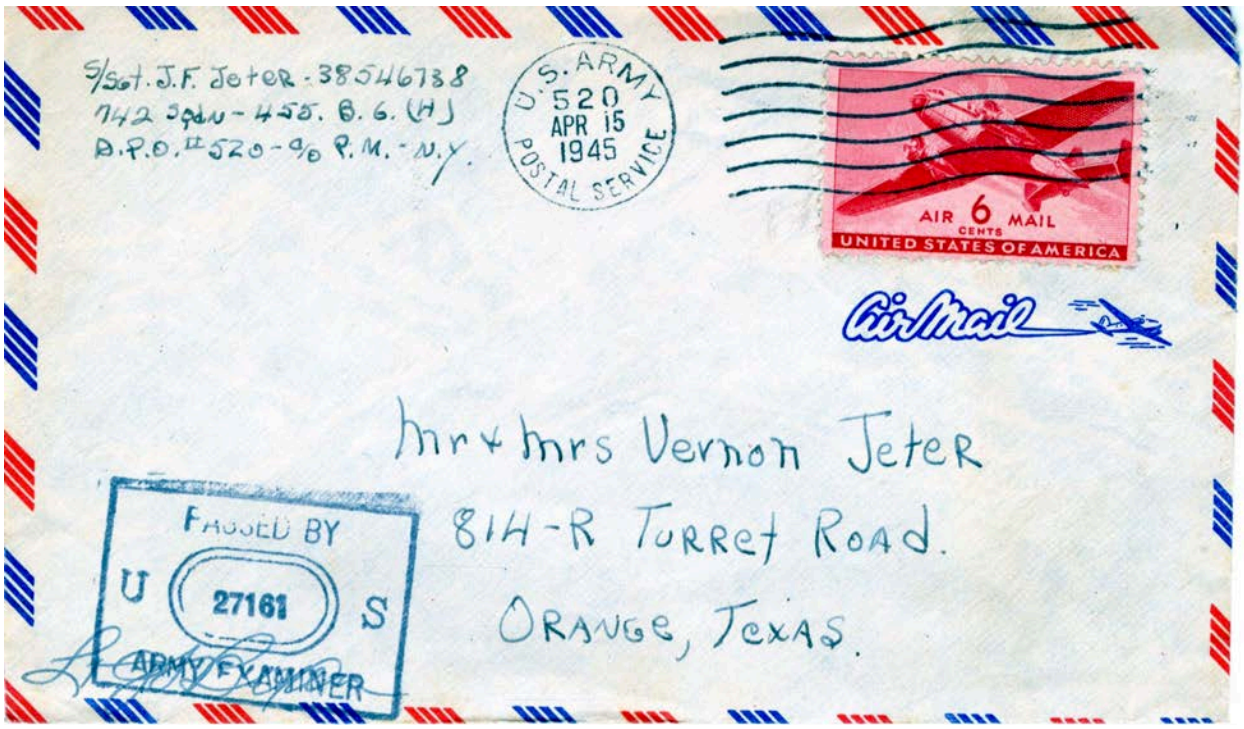
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broken or anything and it really was
swell with toast and the pecans were
good because you know how I like them.
We all enjoyed them, still have some jelly
left and I do thank you so very much -

Letter 28



April 13th, 1945
Friday P.M.
In Italy

Dear Folks,

Not much news as usual but thought I'd drop you a few lines and let you hear from a son that loves you with all his heart. Since I have been grounded with this broken arm, news is even scarcer than ever, if that at all possible. I imagine you are like me though, jest a word from the ones you love means so very much and I always love your letters so very much.

My arm is coming along well and I should be flying again before very long. The treatments and exercise has certainly done it good, especially when they put it under the sun lamp. It never hurts me anymore, just gets in my way sometimes because of this darn cast. All my fingers are sticking out of the cast and I can do quite a bit with that hand even if it is in a cast.

The fellows have in twenty six of their thirty five missions - only nine more to go. I doubt if I can possibly catch them or even come close but I'm not worrying about it. I'll just do the best I can and try to finish as soon as possible. I am now checked out as a cameraman and that will help me get in a few extra missions. Just don't worry about me because the missions are better now since the Russians advanced and took our roughest target.

Recieved a letter from you to-day and I'm glad your two are still healthy and still cookin' with gas. Maybe this mess will be over before to long but I'll tell you that the Germans still have a lot of fight left in them. It isn't going to be as easy as most people believe but we got 'em on the run now, only 60 miles from Berlin and still going strong. Hope one of Pattons big tanks runs right through Hitlers front door and over Hitler!

Gee wasn't it terrible about President Roosevelt?
When someone first told us this morning
we didn't believe it, it just didn't sound
possible but then we heard he died of a brain
hemorrage in Georgia over the radio &
that Truman had been sworn in the pres.
He was a great man and a wonderful
president and all our allied nations will
miss him greatly. The flag is at half-mast
as a reminder of the death of a truly great
man and peoples president!

Its really spring here now and everything
is in bloom, prettiest green grass I've seen
in many a day. It certainly makes me
want to get out and go fishing but theres
no place to go around here. Gee, it won't
be long now before the fishing there in
Orange county will really be good. I
should be home this summer while its
still good and maybe we can arrange
to spend a day down on the creek like
we did when Del and I were home on
vacation in 1942, we had a swell time!

Well, I fully realize I haven't said anything new but it does let you know I'm thinking of you and loving you more all the time. We have a package call tonight, maybe I'll get your package - I hope. If I do I will write you again tomorrow. The last package with the nuts and apple jelly sure was enjoyed by all of us - course they didn't last long but it sure was good. Out of the rest of us we average about 2 packages a week & we usually have stuff for snacks & such. Darling after you get this, don't send me anymore packages or boxes, just letters because I'll be finished before they can get here. I do appreciate every thing you've sent me, you are the sweetest parents in all the world & I'm very proud to be your son - yes I do love you two so much. Write when you have time and I'll write again very soon. Just remember I'm loving you always & more every day. God bless you two & keep you safe for me.

Your same son,

James Ferrell.

Letter 28

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
520
Apr 15
1945

Page 1

April 13, 1945
Friday P.M.
In Italy

Dear Folks,

Not much news as usual but thought I'd drop you a few lines and let you hear from a son that loves you with all his heart. Since I have been grounded with this broken arm, news is even scarcer than ever, if thats at all possible. I imagine you are like me though, just a word from the ones you love means so very much and I always love your letters so very much.

My arm is coming along well and I should be flying again before very long. The treatments and exercise had certainly done it good, especially when they put it under the sun lamp. It never hurts me anymore, just gets in my way sometimes because of this darn cast. All my fingers are sticking out of the cast and I can do quite a bit with that hand even if it is in a cast.

Page 2

The fellows have in twenty six of their thirty five missions- only nine more to go. I doubt if I can possible catch them or even come close but I'm not worrying about it. I'll just do the best I can and try to finish as soon as possible. I am now checked out as a camera man and that will help me get in a few extra missions. Just don't worry about me because the missions are better now since the Russians advanced and took our roughest target.

Recieved a letter from you to-day and I'm glad you two are still healthy and still cookin' with gas. Maybe this mess will be over before to long but I'll tell you that the Germans still have a lot of fight left in them. It isn't going to be as easy as most people believe but we go in on the run now, only 60 miles from Berlin and still going strong. hope one of Pattons big tanks runs right through Hitler's front door and over Hitler!

Page 3

Gee wasn't it terrible about President Roosevelt? When someone first told us this morning we didn't believe it, it just didn't sound possible but then we heard he died of a brain hemorrhage in Georgia over the radio + that Truman had been sworn in the pres. He was a great man and a wonderful president and all our Allied Nations will miss him greatly. The flag is at half mast as a reminder of the death of a truly great man and peoples president!

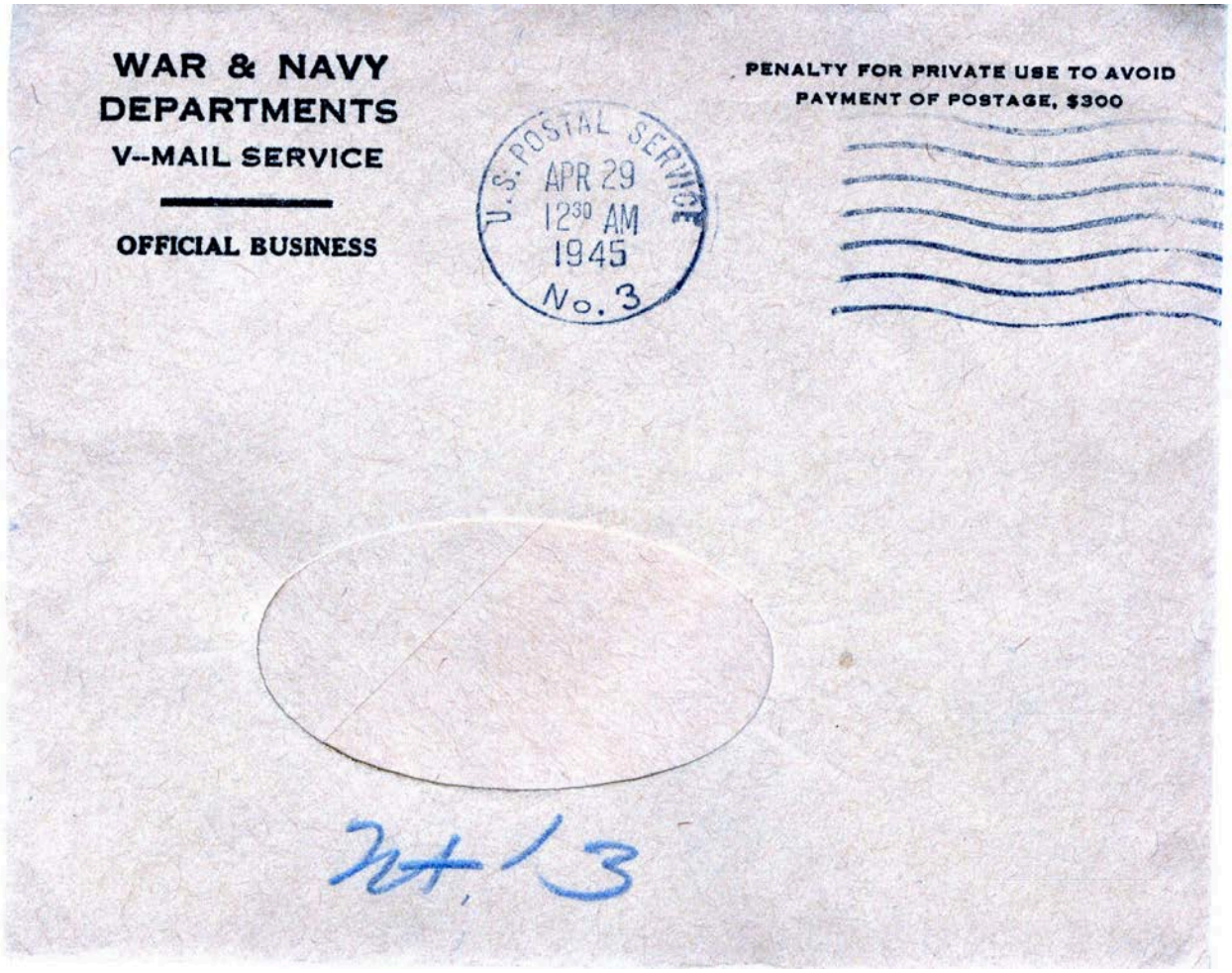
Its really spring here now and everything is in blooms, prettiest green grass I've seen in many a day. It certainly makes me want to get out and go fishing but theres no place to go around here. Gee, it won't

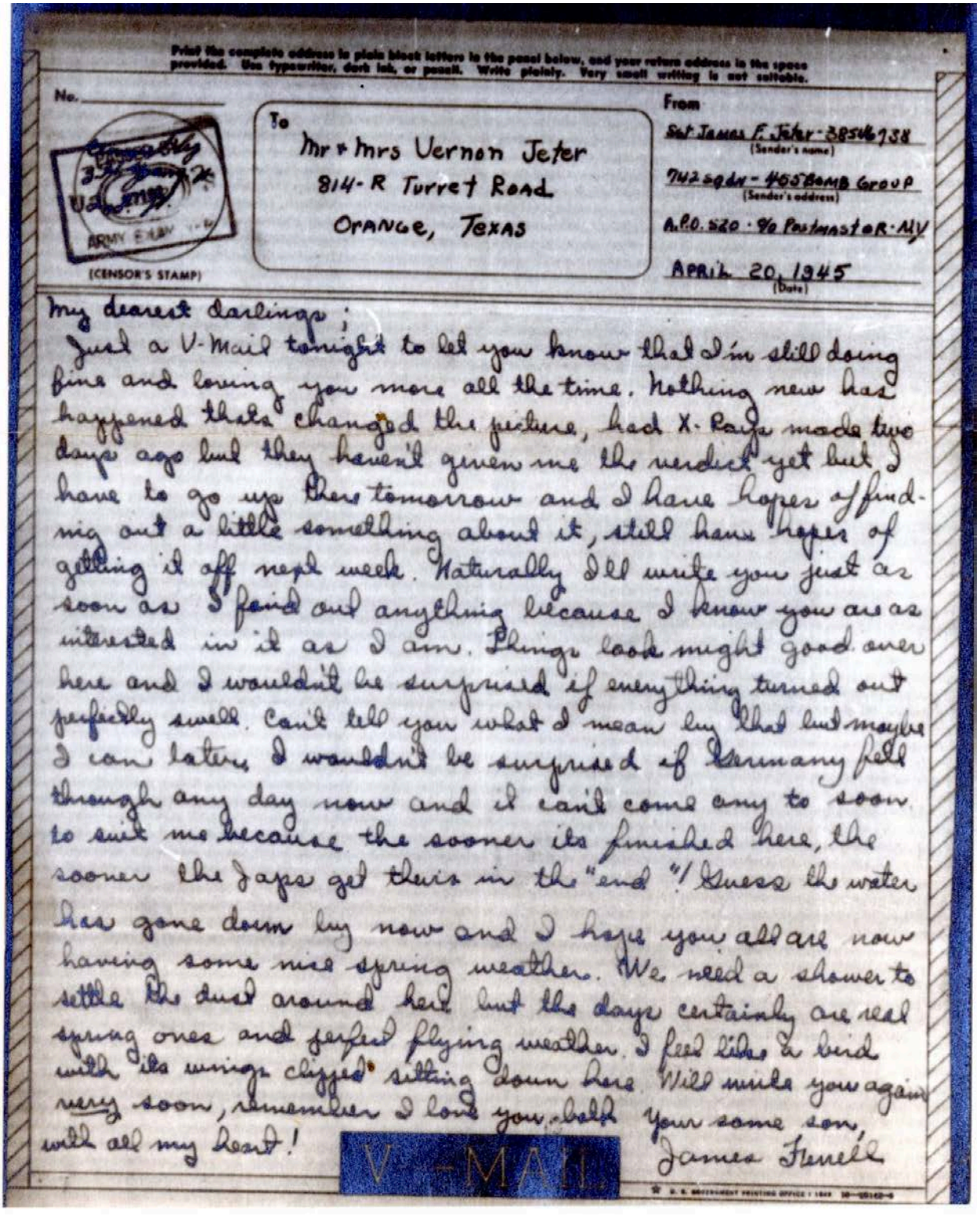
be long now before the fishing there in
Orange county will really be good. I
should be home this summer whiles its
still good and maybe we can arrange
to spend a day down on the creek like
we did when Dot and I were home on
vacation in 1942, we had a swell time!

Page 4

Well, I fully realize I haven't said anything
new but it does let you know I'm thinking
of you and loving you more all the time.
We have a package call tonight, maybe
I'll get your package - I hope. If I do I
will write you again tomorrow. That
last package with the nuts and apple
jelly sure was enjoyed by all of us - course
they didnt last long but it sure was good.
Out of the six of us we average about 2
packages aweek + we usually have stuff
for snacks + such. Darling after you get
this, don't send me anymore packages or
boxes, just letters because I'll be finished
before they can get here. I do appreciate every
thing you've sent me, you are the sweetest
parents in all the world + I'm very proud
to be your son - gee I do love you two so
much. Write when you have time and I'll
write again very soon. Just remember
I'm loving you always + more everyday!
God Bless you two + Keep you safe for me.
Your same son, James Ferrell

Letter 29


WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
APR 29
12 30 AM
1945
No. 3
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300
Nt. 13



Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
ORANGE, TEXAS

From
Sgt James F. Jeter - 38546738
(Sender's name)
742 Sqdn - 465 BOMB Group
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. 520 - % Postmaster - NY
APRIL 20, 1945
(Date)

My dearest darlings;
Just a V-Mail tonight to let you know that I'm still doing fine and loving you more all the time. Nothing new has happened that's changed the picture, had X-Rays made two days ago but they haven't given me the verdict yet but I have to go up there tomorrow and I have hopes of finding out a little something about it, still have hopes of getting it off next week. Naturally I'll write you just as soon as I find out anything because I know you are as interested in it as I am. Things look might good over here and I wouldn't be surprised if everything turned out perfectly swell. Can't tell you what I mean by that but maybe I can later. I wouldn't be surprised if Germany fell through any day now and it can't come any too soon to suit me because the sooner its finished here, the sooner the Japs get theirs in the "end"! Guess the water has gone down by now and I hope you all are now having some nice spring weather. We need a shower to settle the dust around here but the days certainly are real spring ones and perfect flying weather. I feel like a bird with its wings clipped sitting down here. Will write you again very soon, remember I love you both with all my heart!

Your some son,
James Jeter

V-MAIL

Departments
V-Mail Service

US Postal Service
Apr 29
1230 AM
1945
No. 3

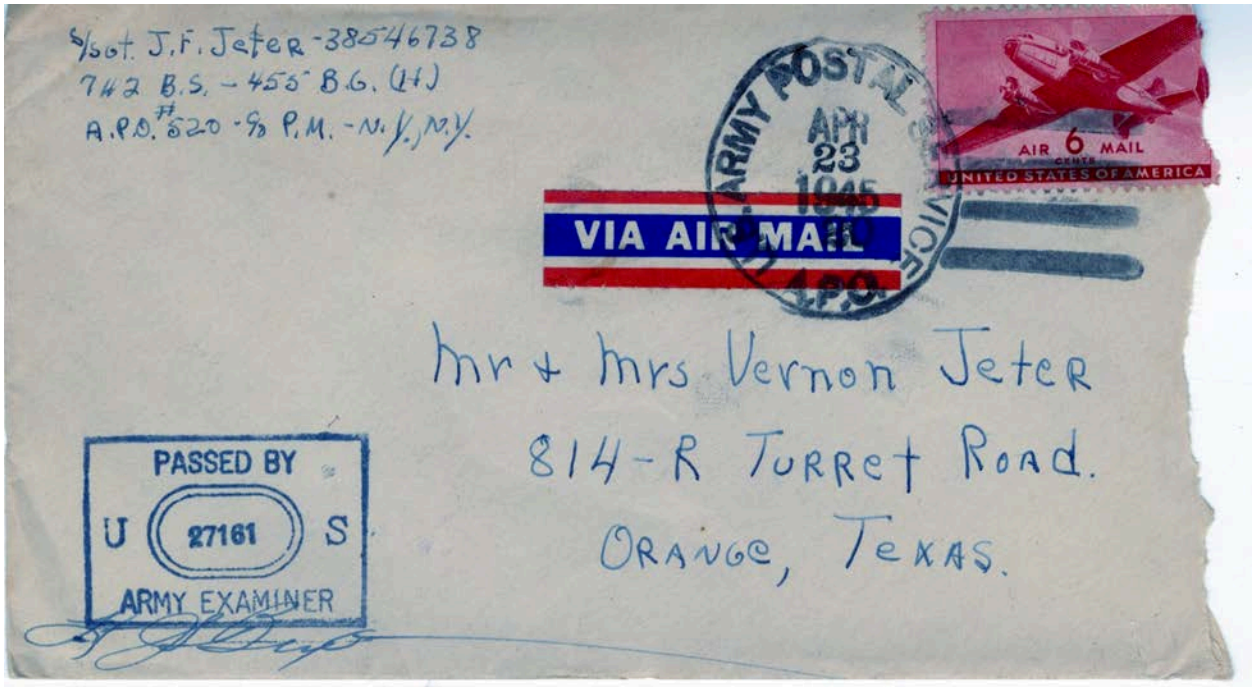
Page 1

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 % P.M.
April 20, 1945

My Dearest Darlings;
Just a V-Mail tonight to let you know that I'm still doing fine and loving you more all the time. Nothing new has happened thats changed the picture. had X-Rays made two days ago but they haven't given me the verdict yet but I have to go up there tomorrow and I have hopes of finding out a little something about it, still have hopes of getting it off next week. Naturally I'll write you just as soon as I find out anything because I know you are as interested in it as I am. Things look might good over here and I wouldn't be surprised if everything turned out perfectly swell. Can't tell you what I mean by that but maybe I can later. I wouldn't be surprised if Germany fell through any day now and it can't come any to soon to suit me because the sooner its finished here, the sooner the Japs get theirs in the "end"! Guess the water has gone down by now and I hope you all are now having some nice spring weather. We need a shower to settle the dust around here but the days certainly are real spring ones and perfect flying weather. I feel like a bird with its wings clipped sitting down here. Will write you again very soon, remember I love you both
with all my heart! Your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 30


S/Sgt. J.F. Jeter - 38546738
742 B.S. - 455 B.G. (H)
A.P.O. #520 - 9 P.M. - N.Y., N.Y.
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
APR 23 1945
A.P.O.
AIR 6 MAIL CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA AIR MAIL
Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road.
Orange, Texas.
PASSED BY
U 27161 S
ARMY EXAMINER

April 22, 1945
Sunday P.M.

Dearest Mom & Pop',

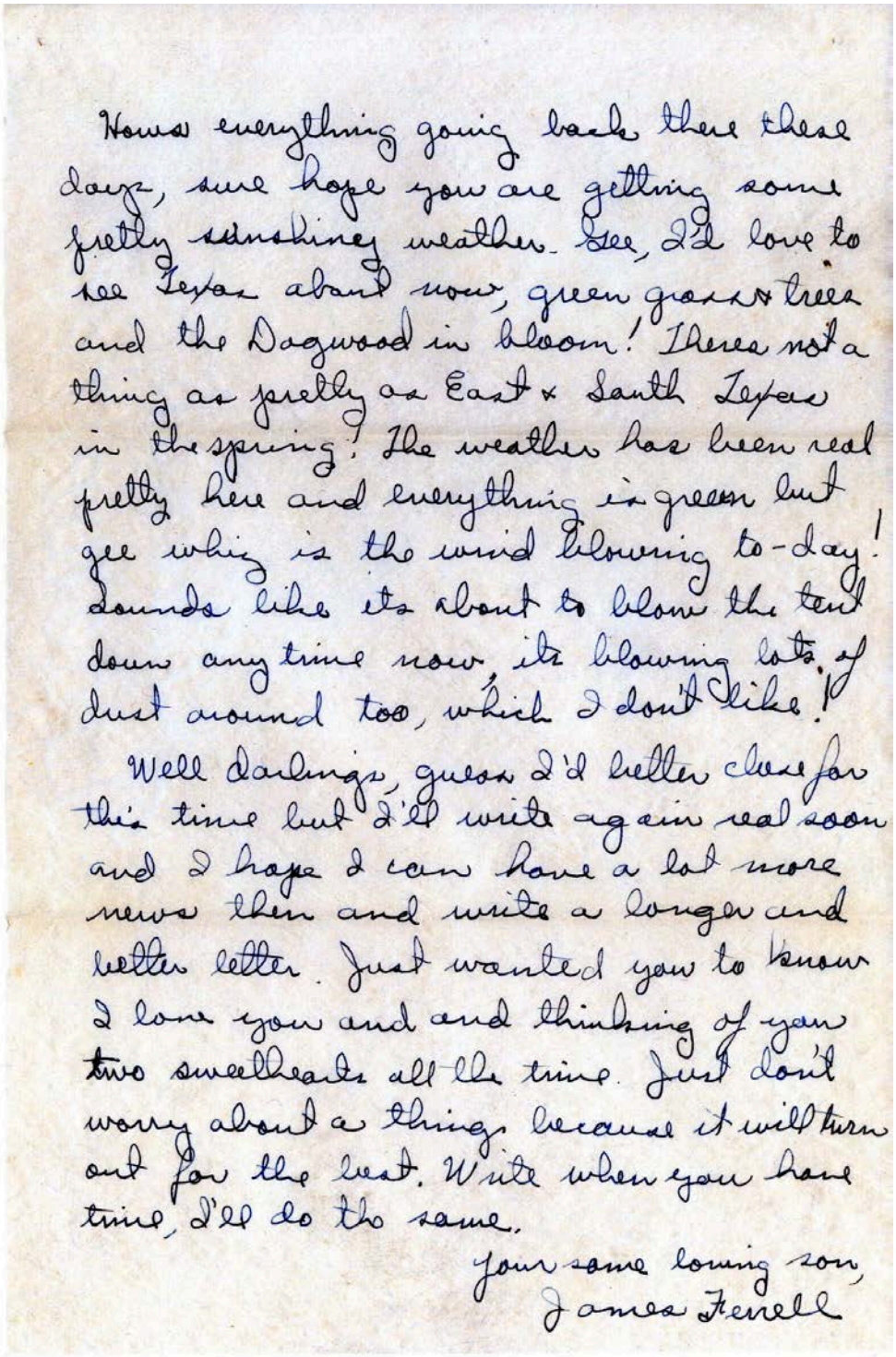
Just a few lines to-day - very little news but that's not unusual for around this place. Very little to do and less to write but as I got a V-mail and an air mail from you in to-days mail call, I may be able to scribble off a few lines to you. As you can see I am using the paper, envelopes, stamps and air mail stickers you sent me and I certainly do thank you for them. I put them to a good use because there is no better use than writing to the parents I love with all my heart. I do appreciate the things you have sent me so much. There's no use sending me anymore paper or envelopes because with what Dad sent me recently I will have enough to last me. The stamps & stickers I can always use and I thank you so much for them. I am getting your letters real regular and you both have been wonderful to write so often because your letters mean a

great deal to me. Hope you are getting my mail good, I try to write pretty regular because I know mail means the same to you as it does me. Sometimes I am almost ashamed to mail them because of the terrible shortage of anything to write but I'll bet you are like me, just some paper with writing on it from you means a lot - just knowing you are O.K. and thinking of me.

My arm is still in the cast but I'm expecting them to remove it any day now as the bones are knitted well and set in perfect order. It will be a while before I can fly combat yet but I've just made up my mind to take it easy and not worry about it at all, It will be nice to get this plaster of paris cast off so I can get under a shower again. I've been having to bathe and of a steel helmet & I just can't get as clean as under a shower. Have to see the Capt. tomorrow & maybe he will take it off. I hope. If he does I'll be sure to drop you a letter and let you know all about it.

Well, I'm not at all surprised at Dave and them moving in with Winnie & Lin but I am surprised at her wanting to buy your washing machine, I figured she would want you to give it to her! Evidentally she doesn't realize its impossible to buy those things now or thought you would be sucker enough to sell it to her. I certainly don't blame you for feeling like you did about it! They have sponged on people so long - they remind me of Horace and Amy!

See, the war news certainly is good these days, our boys are really pouring it on the Germans, heard to-day that the Russians are in Berlin, I sure hope they are and after they get through with it, I hope there isn't two brickes left stuck together, shoot 'em all is what I say! After the way they have treated our boys I don't see how they can expect any mercy and I for one am against showing them the least bit, especially the leaders - hang 'em, that's what they



How's everything going back there these days, sure hope you are getting some pretty sunshiney weather. See, I'd love to see Texas about now, green grass & trees and the Dogwood in bloom! There's not a thing as pretty as East & South Texas in the spring! The weather has been real pretty here and everything is green but gee whiz is the wind blowing to-day! Sounds like it's about to blow the tent down any time now, it's blowing lots of dust around too, which I don't like!

Well darlings, guess I'd better close for this time but I'll write again real soon and I hope I can have a lot more news then and write a longer and better letter. Just wanted you to know I love you and and thinking of you two sweethearts all the time. Just don't worry about a thing, because it will turn out for the best. Write when you have time, I'll do the same.

your same loving son,
James Jeter

Letter 30

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738

742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Apr 23
1945

Page 1

April 22, 1945
Sunday P.M.

Dearest Mom + Pop;
Just a few lines to-day- very little news
but thats not unusual for around this place.
Very little to do and less to write but as
I got a V-mail and an air mail from you
in to-days mail call, I may be able to
scribble off a few lines to you. As you
can see I am using the paper, envelopes,
stamps and air mail stickers you sent
me and I certainly do thank you for them.
I put them to a good use because there is
no better use than writing to the parents
I love with all my heart. I do appreciate
the things you have sent me so much.
Theres no use sending me anymore paper
or envelopes because with what Dot sent me
recently I will have enough to last me.
The stamps + stickers I can always use
and I thank you so much for them. I am
getting your letters real regular and
you both have been wonderful to write
so often because your letters mean a

Page 2

great deal to me. Hope you are getting my mail good, I try to write pretty regular because I know mail means the same to you as it does me. Sometimes I am almost ashamed to mail them because of the terrible shortage of anything to write but I'll bet you are like me, just some paper with writing on it from you means a lot - just knowing you are O.K. and thinking of me.

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Page 3

Well, I'm not at all surprused at Daniel and them moving in with Winnie + Liu but I am surprised at her wanting to buy your washing machine, I figured she would want you to give it to her! Evidentally she doesn't realize its impossible to buy those things now or thought you would be sucker enough to sell it to her. I certainly don't blame you for feeling like you did about it! They have sponged on people so long- they remind me of Horace and Amy!

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Page 4

Hows everything going back there these days, sure hope you are getting some pretty sunshine weather. Gee, I'd love to see Texas about now, green grass, trees and the Dogwood in bloom! There's not a thing as pretty as East + South Texas in the spring! The weather has been real pretty here and everything is green but gee whiz is the wind blowing to-day! Sounds like its about to blow the tent down anytime now, its blowing lots of dust around too, which I don't like!

Well darlings, guess I'd better close for this time but I'll write again real soon and I hope I can have a lot more news than and write a longer and better letter. Just wanted you to know I love you and and thinking of you two sweethearts all the time. Just don't worry about a thing because it will turn out for the best. Write when you have time, I'll do the same.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 31


S/Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn - 405 Bomb Group
A.P.O. # 320 - c/o Postmaster - N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
320
APR 11
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Air Mail
PASSED BY
27101
S
ARMY EXAMINER
Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas.

April 27, 1945
Friday p. m.

My dearest Mom & Pop;

Things are dull and slow around here as they usually are and I have very little news to pass on to you but I do have one of your nice letters to answer and maybe I can squeeze out a couple of pages or so.

I'm getting along just swell and since they took the cast off my wrist it's getting better all the time, be good as new before you know it. I'm still getting my heat treatments and exercizes to limber up the stiff joints. It doesn't pain me at all, just stiff and I'm gradually working all the stiffness out. Capt. Blackmun said he thought I'd be able to fly this next week so I'll probably be back on flying status by the time you get this letter.



Well since I started this letter I have heard some very good news. Sometime ago Randy Milton, our navigator was flying with another crew and was hit by flak and were forced down. Naturally we knew they were down somewhere or dead but we had no way of knowing if he was safe, dead, or a prisoner. We have been worrying about him for quite sometime but to-day we recieved word that they were all safe in Switzerland & no one hurt or prisoner. See, it sure was good news to all of us, we dont have to worry anymore. When one of our ships goes down, nine times out of ten the crew is saved and his was no exception thank the Lord! From the way the war is going over here these days it looks like it will be over soon. I wouldn't be surprised if I came home without ever



flying another mission and believe me that wouldn't make me mad at all!

Say from your V-Mail that I got to-day you all might have a flood on your hands down there any day now. I sure hope the river doesn't come up and force people to have to move, that would certainly be a mess. See, it will really have to go some to get that high won't it?

So they cut down on your crews at the yards eh? Guess they only kept the best men and naturally you were kept. I'll bet it wouldn't make you mad if they did lay you off, would be nice I know if you could get back to the ole home in Longview. I enjoyed the clipping and picture you sent me of the guy who went overboard with the launching I'll bet you fellows really did kid him! Ha



Say Dad, you are really doing all the good with your smokes these days, first a carton of Prince Albert and now a carton of Luckies! I know you really did appreciate Roy sending them to you and I'll bet you really did smoke up a storm. The house probably looked like it was on fire for a few days! Ha. I got my six packs for the week but I had to take Old Golds, no Luckies or Camels but I guess we are lucky to get any at all. I have two extra cartons on hand, sure wish I could send them to you but they are G. I. and no tax stamps so I can't. They only cost us 5¢ a package or 50¢ a carton so you can see we have cheap smoking over here. It certainly will be a grand day when we can walk in a store and buy any kind or as many as we want & it can't come to soon to suit me.



I certainly don't blame you for not dealing with the black market, $3.00 is high as the devil over there. Over here the Italians try to buy ours off us for $12.00 to $17.50 a carton so you can see they really want american cigarettes bad. I don't have a darn thing to do with these dang "Guineas" as we call them, they are dirty & filthy and will steal a fellow blind if you let them get behind your back.

I know you were glad to get your watch back, hope Kowell did a good job on it. After carrying it so long, I know you felt lost without it because I am the same way.

Well, guess this will be all for this time but I'll write the parents I love so much again real soon, hope to have a lot more news next time. Just remember I'm loving you both and thinking of you all the time.

Your same son
James Ferrell.

Letter 31

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
Apr 30
1945

Page 1

April 27, 1945
Friday P.M.

My dearest Mom + Pop;

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Page 5

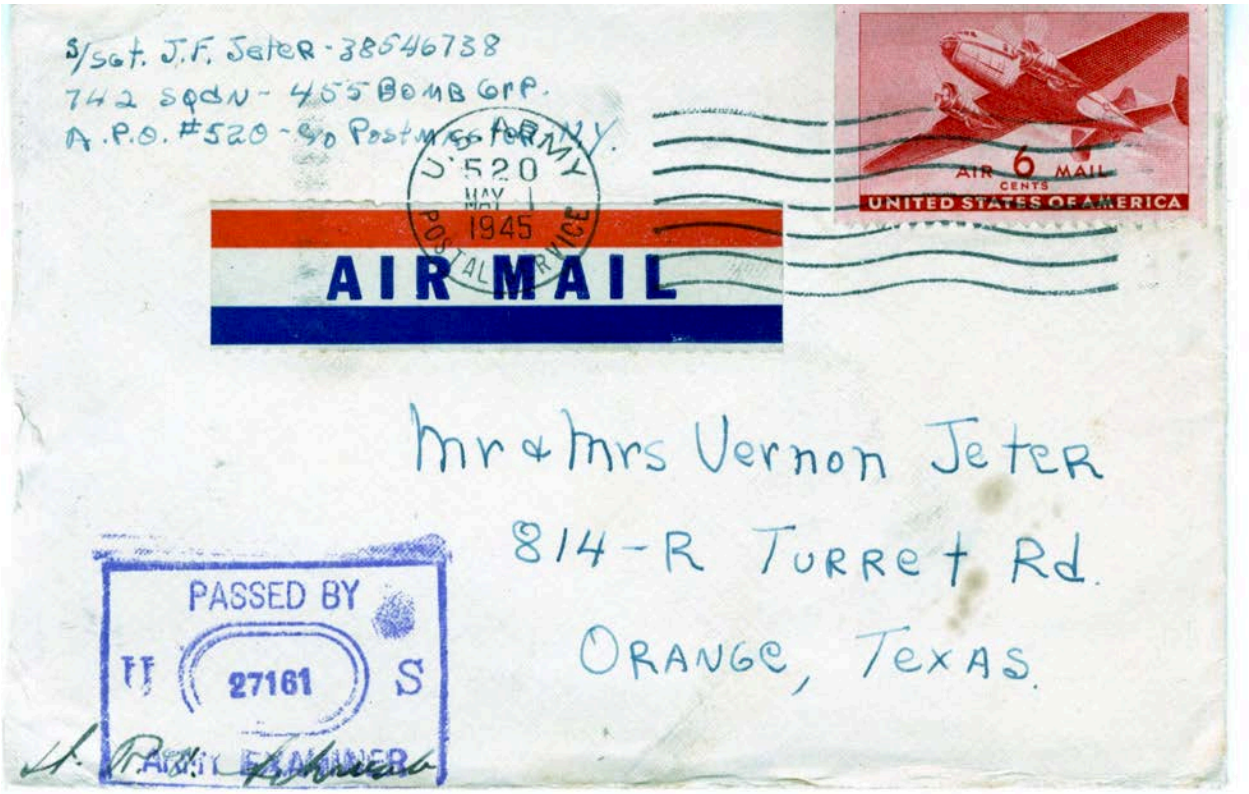
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I know you were glad to get your watch back, hope Howell did a good job on it. After carrying it so long, I know you felt lost without it because I am the same way.

Well, guess this will be all for this time but I'll write the parents I love so

much again real soon, hope to have a
bit more news next time. Just remember
I'm loving you both and thinking of you
all the time. Your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 32


S/Sgt. J.F. Jeter - 38546738
742 SQDN - 455 BOMB GRP.
A.P.O. #520 - C/O Postmaster, N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
520
MAY
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR MAIL
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Rd.
Orange, Texas.
PASSED BY
27161
CENSOR EXAMINER

April 29, 1945
Sunday p. m.

Dear Mom & Dad;

Same ole seven and six with me, just thought I'd drop you a line and let you know everything is going fine.

Recieved a letter from you and as usual I really did appreciate it. I do love your letters, they always give my morale a big boost. You two have been so sweet to write as often as you do and I certainly do appreciate it. I hope you are getting my mail o.k., I try to write pretty regular and keep you posted on our me lit of news around here, which is usually very little.

My arm is getting along fine and I use it all the time. Its still a bit stiff but thats working away a little more every day, shouldnt

be long before its good as new. I am flying again, or rather on flying status but not flying because of pretty plain reasons. We are all full of hopes and rumors but nothing definate as yet. We hope to come home when Germany falls and we may to, I'm sure pulling for us to!

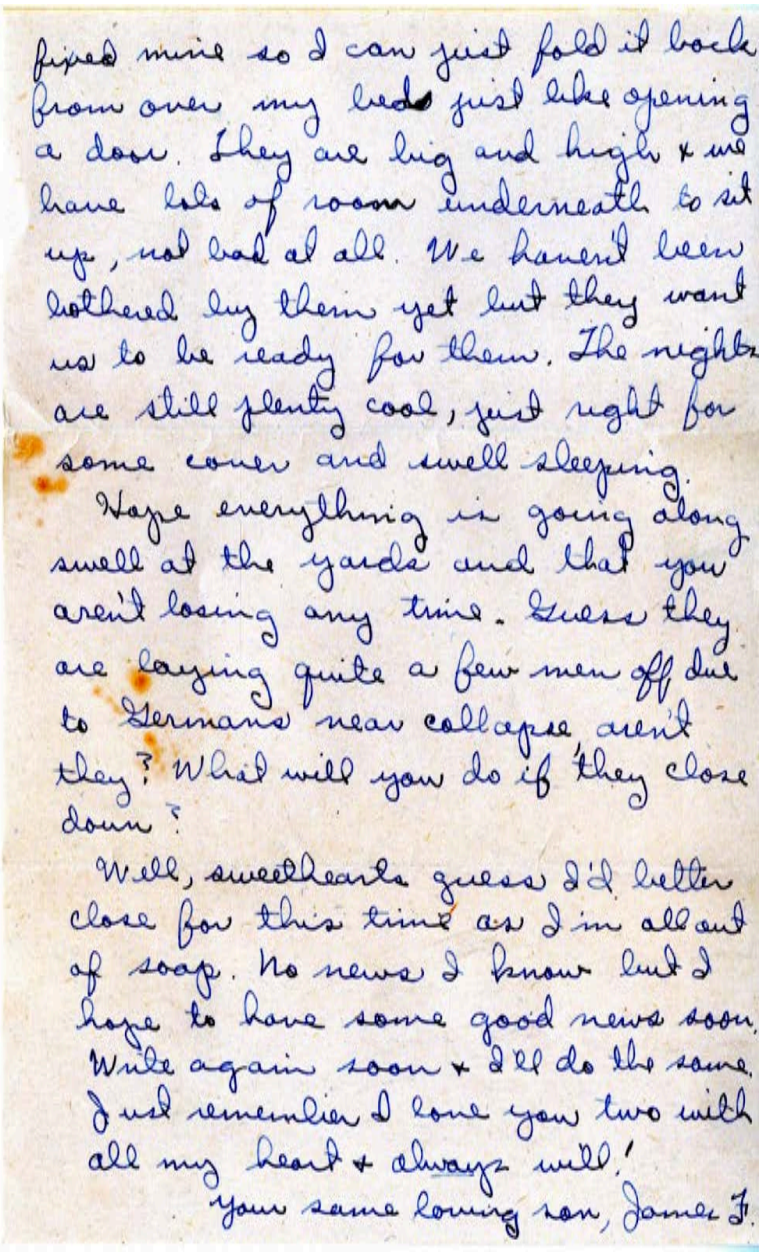
Glad you liked the picture of the three of us, wasn't much good but those Italian cameras and film aren't so hot. Hope to have a real good one made when I get home.

See whiz but they really had some flood up Carthage way didn't they. Boy when that dump and bridge get under water, that's really a flood. See, I guess it will really be a long time before they can get it fixed. Even after the water goes down, they will have to haul dirt and rock a long way to fill it in. I

sure hope you all haven't and don't get any high water there at Orange. Its like you say though, the other side of the river is so low, I don't see how it can get up on your side, it will flood half of Louisiana first.

No, I didn't know Dorothy Ray was pregnant, glad you told me, they sure believe in keeping secrets don't they? I'll be glad when the time comes when I'm out of the army and our Dorthy is too, won't you?

Haven't done a thing of importance to-day, all I've done is bathe and clean up, go to school two hours and write a couple of letters. We aren't flying anymore, just going to ground school and waiting for the war to end. Oh yes, I almost forgot something, we put up our mosquito nets to-day. Boy, you should see the swell job I did on mine, I



fixed mine so I can just fold it back from over my bed just like opening a door. They are big and high & we have lots of room underneath to sit up, not bad at all. We haven't been bothered by them yet but they want us to be ready for them. The nights are still plenty cool, just right for some cover and swell sleeping.

Hope everything is going along swell at the yards and that you aren't losing any time. Guess they are laying quite a few men off due to Germans near collapse, aren't they? What will you do if they close down?

Well, sweetheart guess I'd better close for this time as I'm all out of soap. No news I know but I hope to have some good news soon. Write again soon & I'll do the same. Just remember I love you two with all my heart & always will!

Your same loving son, James F.

Letter 32

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
May 1
1945

Page 1

April 29, 1945
Sunday P.M.

Dear Mom + Dad;
Same ole seven and six with me, just thought I'd drop you a line and let you know everything is going fine.
Recieved a letter from you and as usual I really did appreciate it. I do love your letters, they always give my morals a big boost. You, two have been so sweet to write as often as you do and I certainly do appreciate it. I hope you are getting my mail O.K., I try to write pretty regular and keep you posted on our we bit of news around here, which is usually very little.
My arm is getting along fine and I use it all the time. Its still a bit stiff but thats working away a little more everyday, shouldn't

Page 2

be long before its good as new. I am flying again, or rather on flying status but not flying because of pretty plain reasons. We are all full of hopes and rumors but nothing definite as yet. We hope to come home when Germany falls and we may

to, I'm sure pulling for us to!
Glad you liked the picture of the three of us, wasn't much good but those Italian cameras and film aren't so hot. Hope to have a real good one made when I get home.
Gee whiz but they really had some flood up Carthage way didn't they. Boy when that dump and bridge get under water, thats really a flood. Gee, I guess it will really be a long time before they can get it fixed. Even after the water goes down, they will have to haul dirt and rock a long way to fill it in. I

Page 3

sure hope you all haven't and don't get any high water there at Orange. Its like you say though, the other side of the river is so low, I don't see how it can get up on your side, it will flood half of Louisiana first.
No, I didn't know Dorothy Ray was pregnant, glad you told me, they sure believe in keeping secrets don't they? I'll be glad when the time comes when I'm out of this army and Our Dorothy is too, won't you?
Haven't done a thing of importance to-day. All I've done is bathe and clean up, go to school two hours and write a couple of letters. We aren't flying anymore, just going to ground school and waiting for the war to end. Oh yes, I almost forgot something, we put up our mosquito nets to-day. Boy, you should see the swell job I did on mine, I

Page 4

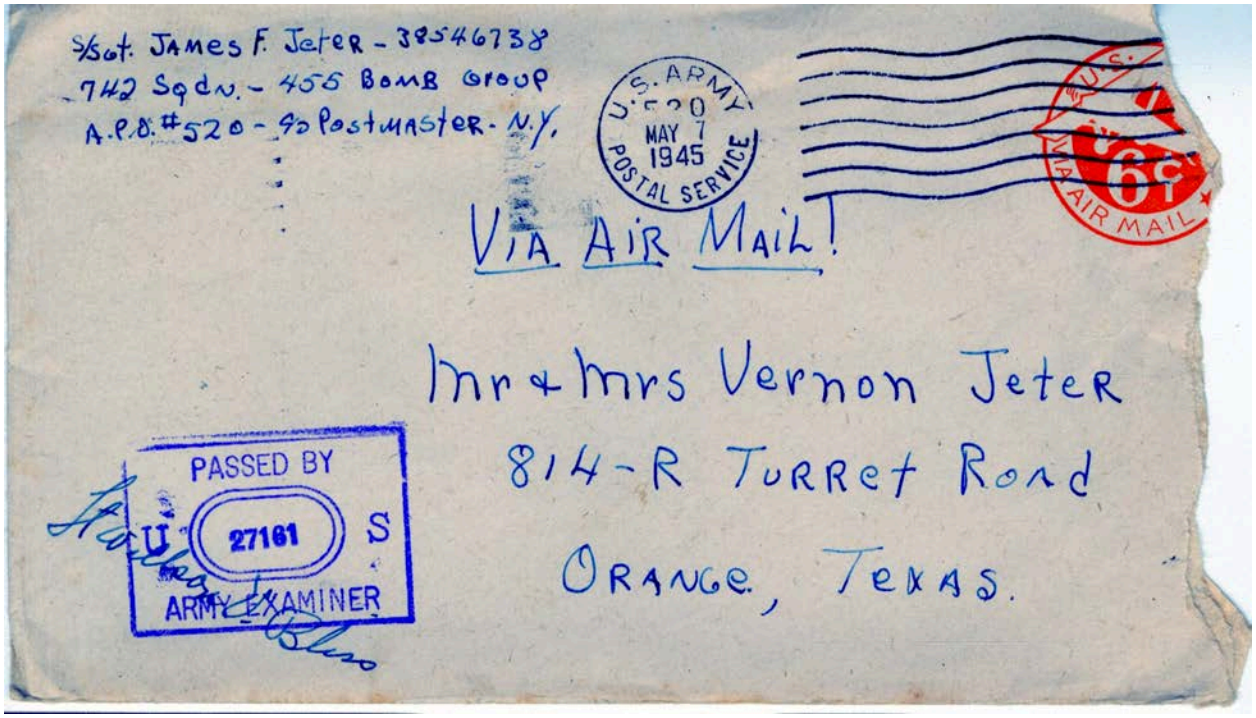
fixed mine so I can just fold it back from over my beds just like opening a dose. They are big and high + we have lots of room underneath to sit up, not bad at all. We haven't been bothered by them yet but they want us to be ready for them. The nights are still plenty cool, just right for some cover and swell sleeping.

Hope everything is going along swell at the yards and that you aren't losing any time. Guess they are laying quite a few men off due to Germans near collapse aren't they? What will you do if they close down?

Well, sweethearts guess I'd better close for this time as I'm all out of soap. No news I know but I opt to have some good news soon. Write again soon + I'll do the same. Just remember I love you two with all my heart + always will!

Your same loving son, James F.

Letter 33


S/Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster - N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
MAY 7
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
U.S.
6¢
AIR MAIL
VIA AIR MAIL!
Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas.
PASSED BY
27181
ARMY EXAMINER

May 5, 1945
Saturday eve
Italy

Dear Mom & Pop;

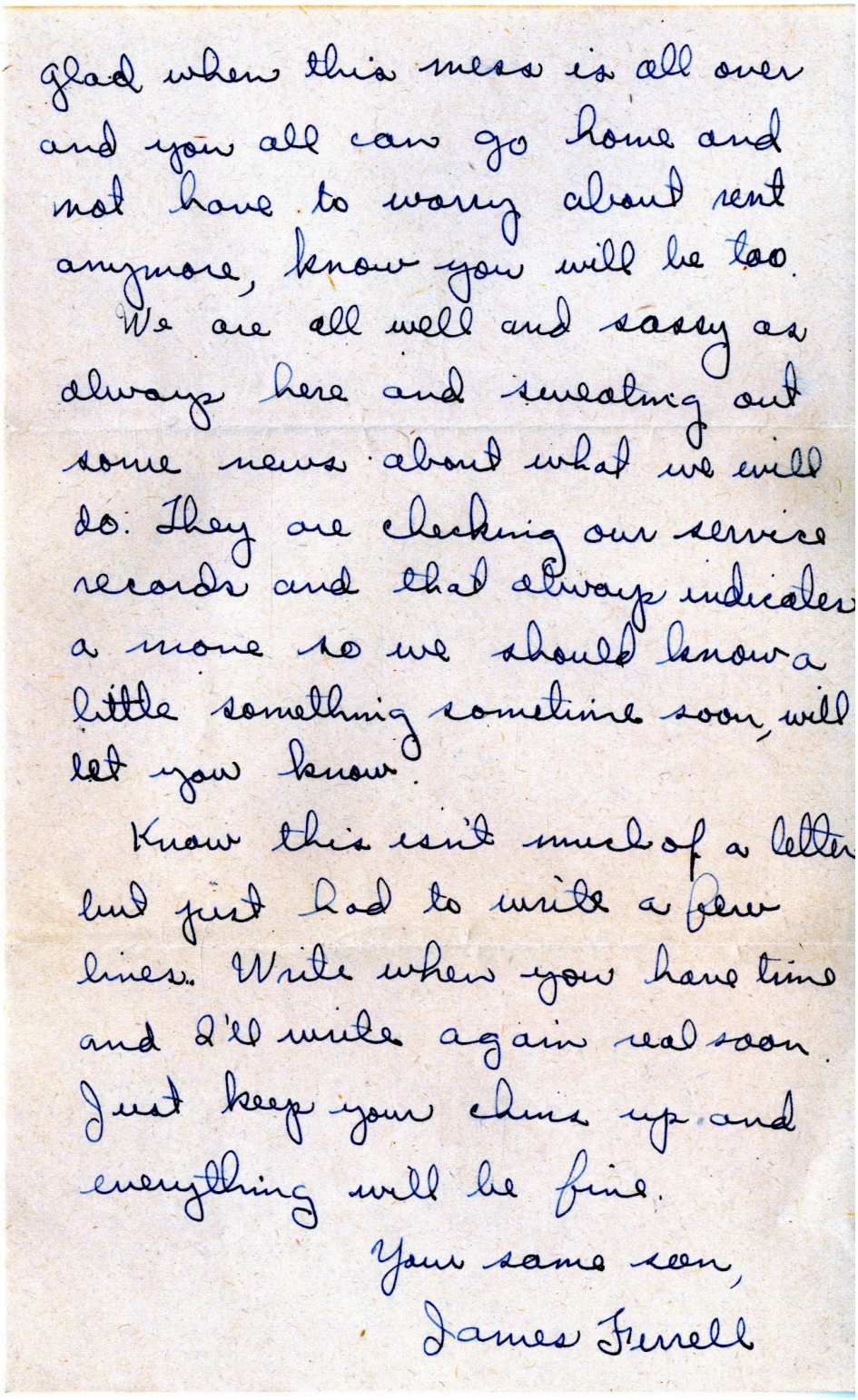
Just a few lines to let you know everything is the same and that I'm thinking of you and loving you more all the time. I feel swell, not a lot to do but eat, sleep, and go to ground school. Now that Germany is just about all gone we don't have anything to do and we are all sweating out what they will do with us. We hear all kinds of rumors but the only official thing we have heard is that if we have to go elsewhere to fight we will get a furlough in the states first. So now its just a matter of waiting to see when we will

come home. Guess some of us will have to stay as part of the army of occupation but gosh only knows who it will be. Everybody is hoping it wont be them especially me! If I should be unlucky and get the job it will be a safe job anyway that's one consolation. I'm not going to worry about it because it won't help any, just do darin. Naturally I'll write you any & all the news that I can but you know how the army is and what censorship means and I intend to play fair with the rules.

Recieved the clippings and your letter and naturally I enjoyed it very much as I always do. Hope you are getting my mail O.K., yours is coming in swell.

Sure hope ole Sabine didn't go wild on you but from what I judged by those clippings and your letter they figured the levee and dynamiting should take care of all the water, sure hope so.

Hope the work at the yard is going along nicely and no trouble. If you should happen to go back to Longview I don't believe you will have any trouble getting the renters out since you want it yourself. If I were you and they got behind on their rent I'd just move 'em out and close it up and darn the renters to heck! While I was at it, I'd give Gayle a piece of my mind just for good measure! I'll be so



glad when this mess is all over and you all can go home and not have to worry about rent anymore, know you will be too.

We are all well and sassy as always here and sweating out some news about what we will do. They are checking our service records and that always indicates a move so we should know a little something sometime soon, will let you know.

Know this isn't much of a letter but just had to write a few lines. Write when you have time and I'll write again real soon. Just keep your chins up and everything will be fine.

Your same son,

James Ferrell

Letter 33

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738

742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
May 7
1945

Page 1

May 5, 1945
Saturday Eve
Italy

Dear Mom + Pop;
Just a few lines to let you know everything is the same and that I'm thinking of you and loving you more all the time. I just swell, not a lot to do but eat, sleep, and go to ground school.
Now that Germany is just about all gone we don't have anything to do and we are all sweating out what they will do with us. We hear all kinds of rumors but the only official thing we have heard is that if we have to do elsewhere to fight we will get a furlough in the states first. So now its just a matter of waiting to see when we will

Page 2

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is hoping it wont be them
especially me! If I should be
unlucky and get the job it will
be a safe job anyway thats
one consulation. I'm not going
to worry about it because it
won't help any, just do harm.
Naturally I'll write you any +
all the news that I can but
you know how the army is
and what censorship means
and I intend to play fair with
the rules.
Recieved the clippings and your
letter and naturally I enjoyed
it very much as I always do.
Hope you are getting my mail
O.K., yours is coming in swell.

Page 3

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wild on you but from what I
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your letter they figured the levee
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care of all the water, sure hope
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Hope the work at the yard is
going along nicely and no
trouble. If you should happen
to go back to Longview I don't
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getting the renters out since you
want it yourself. If I were you
and they got behind on their rent
I'd just move 'em out and close
it up and darn the renters to
heck! While I was at it, I'd give
Gayle a piece of my mind just
for good measure! I'll be so

Page 4

glad then this mess is all over
and you can go home and
not have to worry about rent
anymore, know you will be too.
We are all well and sassy as
always here and sweating out
some news about what we will
do. They are checking out our service
records and that always indicates
a move so we should know a
little something sometime soon, will
let you know.
KNow this isn't much of a letter
but just had to write a few
lines. Write when you have time
and I'll write again real soon.
Just keep your chins up and
everything will be fine.

Your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 34


S/Sgt. J.F. Jeter - 38546138
742 Sqdn. - 460 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster N.Y.
U.S. ARMY
MAY 13
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 MAIL
CENTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIA Air Mail
Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

May 13, 1945
Sunday p.m.
Italy

My precious Mother + Dad;

Today being Mothers Day I just had to write a few lines although I just wrote not long ago. I hope you had a nice day and pray that Gods blessings were abundant. I've thought about you both all day and hope next Mothers Day I will be with you so I can tell you in person what a perfect and wonderful Mom you have been. Its not often a son is blessed with such perfect parents and I thank God for giving me such

a perfect Mom and Pop. I'm so proud to be your son and I always will be, sweethearts.

Things certainly looks good for us over here and I honestly believe we will get a furlough in the States this summer. Course theres always a chance of it falling through on us but it certainly has our hopes sky high. Theres certainly no need for us here and we have been promised a leave in the states before going elsewhere. Just have to wait and hope, can't do a thing about it so theres no need to worry about it is there. I know God will do whats best and I will accept it as I always have.

3.

I know you hate to go back to Longueuil and leave Dad but I understand and I know he does because he's the sweetest Dad in the world, don't you think! I know I certainly wouldn't blame him if he went with you. You just be sure to have three kids because I hope to be home this summer.

Enjoyed your letter so very much x thanks for the stamps, am sending one back on this letter. I'm so glad you get my mail regular, I do yours. I try to write interesting letters because I know what they mean to you but as you say if I waited for news, I'd seldom write. Hope it won't be very long before I'll have some real good news, hope I'll be able to tell you to stop writing until you hear from me in person, if you get what I mean.

4.

My arm is fine, still stiff somewhat but its no wonder the way it was smashed up, just have to keep exercising it and let nature take its course.

Guess you won't have time to send any more packages at all and I have certainly enjoyed every single one. When I'd get one it was just like Christmas. You all have been so sweet, its no wonder I love you so much.

I think its a swell ~~idea to take the~~ shots, no need taking any chances on it and I certainly know what you have to put up with, I've taken eighteen shots, two or three vaccinations and about six blood tests since Dec of 1943, its no fun!

The Dickey you got for Dot was darling, I know she will love it, she likes things like that & it does go with almost everything.

Will write again real soon because I love you so much and I hope Mothers Day next year will see us all together. Love forever James Jr.

Letter 34

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
May 13
1945

Page 1

May 13, 1945
Sunday p.m.
Italy

My precious Mother + Dad;
Today being Mothers Day I just had to write a few lines although I just wrote not long ago. I hope you had a nice day and pray that Gods blessings were abundant. I've thought about you both all day and hope next Mothers Day I will be with you so I can tell you in person what a perfect and wonderful Mom you have been. Its not often a son is blessed with such perfect parents and I thank God for giving me such

Page 2

a perfect Mom and Pop. I'm so proud to be your son and I always will be, sweethearts.

Things certainly look good for us
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we will get a furlough in the States
this summer. Course theres always
a chance of it falling through on
us but it certainly has out hopes
sky high. Theres certainly no need
for us here and we have been
promised a leave in the states
before going elsewhere. Just have to
wait and hope, can't do a thing
about it so theres no need to
worry about it is there. I know
God will do whats best and I will
accept it as I always have.

Page 3

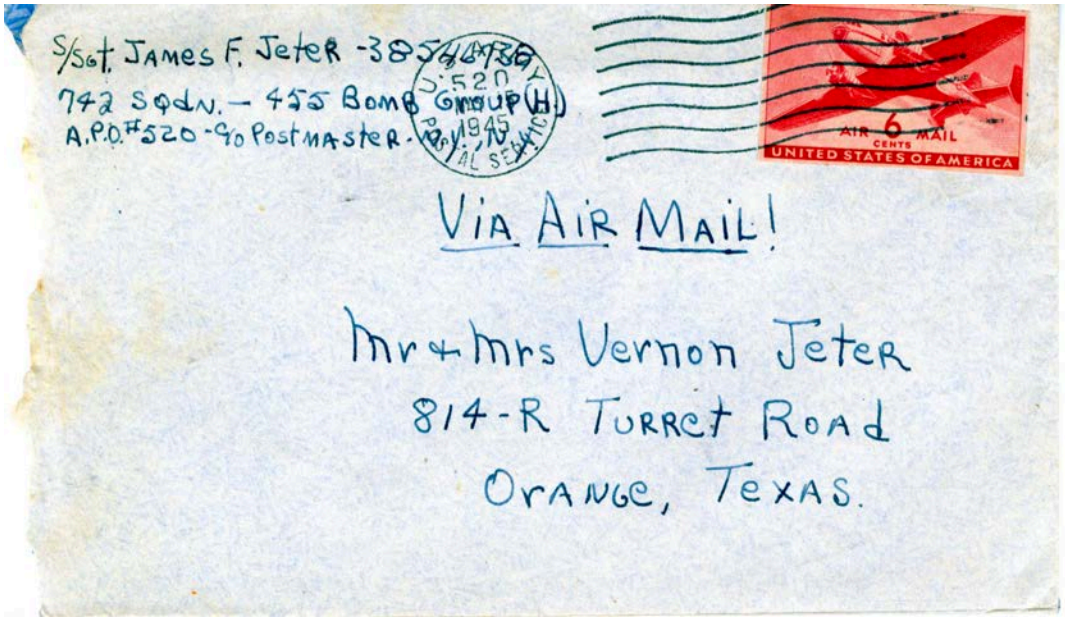
I know you hate to go back to Longview
and leave Dad but I understand and I
know he does because hes the sweetest
Dad in the world, don't you think! I know.
I certainly wouldn't blame him is he
went with you. You just be sure to have
tree beds because I hope to be home
this summer.
Enjoyed your letter so very much +
thanks for the stamps, am sending
one back on this letter. I'm so glad
you get my mail regular, I do yours.
I try to write interesting letters because
I know what they mean to you but
as you say if I waited for news, I'd
seldom write. Hope it won't be very
long before I'll have some real good
news, hope I'll be able to tell you
to stop writing until you hear from
me in person, if you get what I mean.

Page 4

My arm is fine, still stiff somewhat but
its no wonder the way it was smashed
up, just have to keep exercising it

and let nature take its course.
Guess you won't have time to send any more package at all and I have certainly enjoyed every single one. When I'd get one it was just like Christmas. You all have been so sweet, its no wonder I love you so much.
I think its a swell idea to take the shots, no need taking any chances on it and I certainly know what you have to put up with, I've taken eighteen shots, two or three vaccinations and about six blood tests since Dec of 1943, its no fun!
The Dickey you got for Dot was darling, I know she will love it, she like things like that + it does go with almost everything.
Will write again real soon because I love you so much and I hope Mothers Day next year will see us all together. Love Forever
James F.

Letter 35



1.

May 12, 1945
Saturday p. m.

Dear Mom & Pop;

Howes the ones I love so much to-day? I just hope you both feel as good as I do because I feel swell and my spirits are high. Its a beautiful day here although its pretty warm, almost hot. Theres a nice breeze blowing and if a fellows gets in a pair of trunks and in the shade of a tree its really nice. Its not to hot here in the tent as we have all the flaps rolled up to let the breeze blow though. Guess the water is all down by this time and I hope its real pretty weather.

2.

I enjoyed your two letters and the clippings very much as I always do. The clippings gave a good account of the high water and the levee they built. See it certainly must have been a mess with all the sewers plugged up and running all the time. Bet it would have been a lot worse if they hadn't got those pumps going. I'm glad everything is fine now and you all are out of danger. I couldn't help but worry about you and naturally I feel better know its O.K. now.

Everything is fine here with me and looking better all the time. From the way the rumors go and the things that are being

carried on it looks like we will get back to the states before to long. We have had records checked and physical exams and taken shots, all we need to do now is sweat out the time, hope it comes soon. Course it may be months before we leave but it does look pretty sure that we will get to come home. Just don't build your hopes to high or expect much very soon because you know how this army works. You certainly don't have to worry about me though because we certainly don't do anything at all dangerous, just fly four hours per month to get our flying time in and go to ground school. We do detail

4.

work once in a while which isn't hard at all. They try to keep us a bit busy so the time will pass fast which is O.K. for all of us.

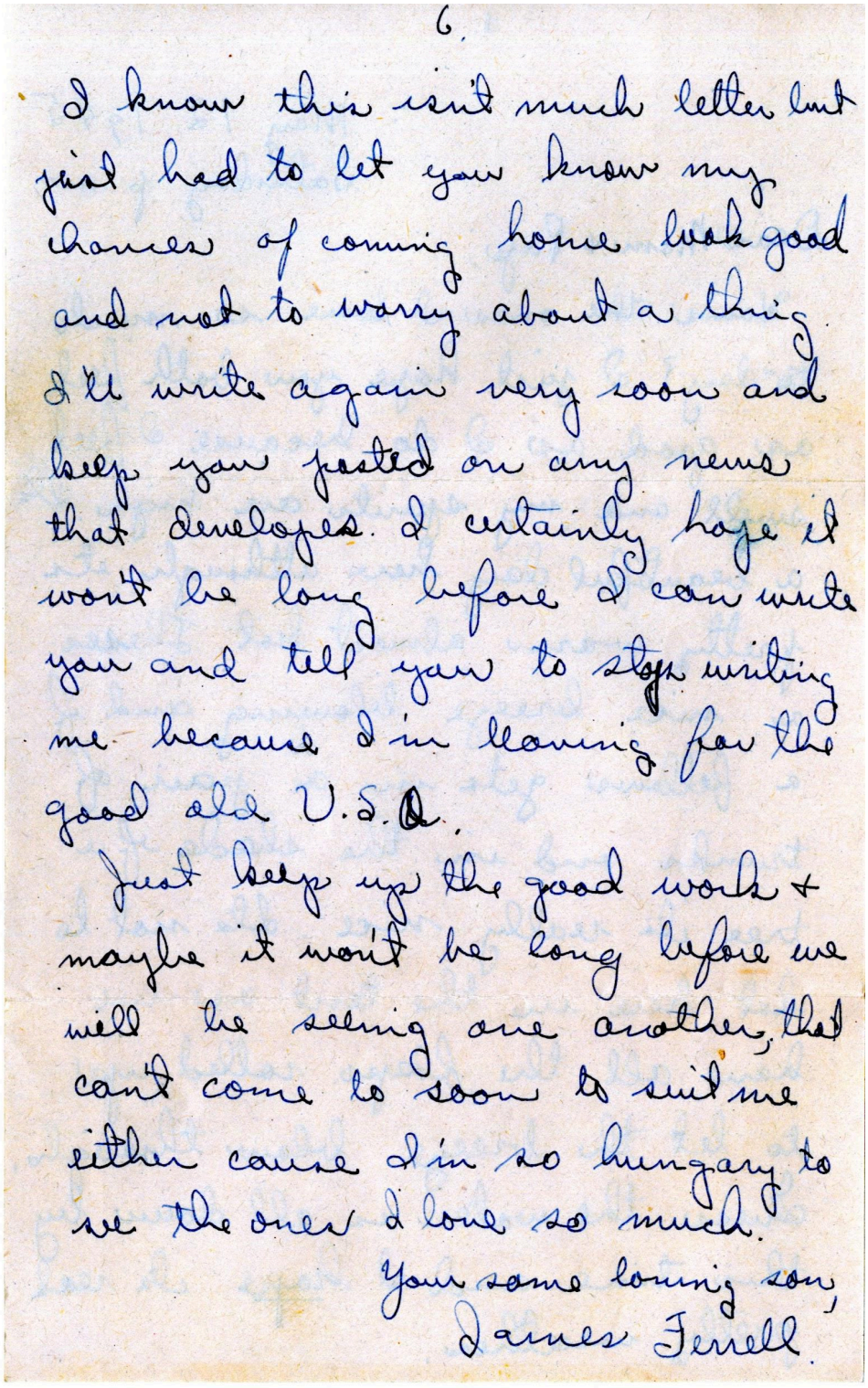
The (H) in my address isn't at all necessary, I just stick in on some times, it just means that I'm in a heavy bomber group. You can put it on or leave it off, it doesn't matter.

I'm glad you got your trouble at the yard all straightened out & I certainly don't blame any of you, you know how these big cars are, they will mess on you if you let them. Hope you get to stay if you want to but I'll bet a shirt nigger it wouldn't make you mad to get to go back to

Longview. Gee, wouldn't it be nice if you were there when I got back, it would be grand.

My wrist is coming along fine and it will be good as new before to long. It's still stiff but it will loosen up as time goes by and I keep exercising it, certainly not a thing to worry about.

Have been talking to Capt. Morrison and he seems to think we will have quite a few days at home and I certainly hope he is right. Things certainly turned out O.K. after all over my broken arm. I'll get to come home with the fellows after all and that just thirteen times I didn't have to fly through that German flak!



6.

I know this isn't much letter but just had to let you know my chances of coming home look good and not to worry about a thing. I'll write again very soon and keep you posted on any news that developes. I certainly hope it won't be long before I can write you and tell you to stop writing me because I'm leaving for the good old U.S.A.

Just keep up the good work + maybe it won't be long before we will be seeing one another, that can't come to soon to suit me either cause I'm so hungary to see the ones I love so much.

Your same loving son,
James Ferell.

Letter 35

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group

A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
May 15
1945

Page 1

May 12, 1945
Saturday p.m.

Dear Mom + Pop;
Hows the ones I love so much to-day? I just hope you both feel as good as I do because I feel swell and my spirits are high. Its a beautiful day here although its pretty warm, almost hot. Theres a nice breeze blowing and if a fellows get in a pair of trunks and in the shade of a tree its really nice. Its not to hot here in the tent as we have all the flags rolled up to let the breeze blow through. Guess the water is all down by this time and I hope its real pretty weather.

Page 2

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with all the sewers plugged up
and raining all the time. Bet it
would have been a lot worse
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worry about you and naturally
I feel better know its O.K. now.
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time. From the way the rumors
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Page 3

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get back to the states before to
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You certainly don't have to worry
about me though because we
certainly don't do anything at
all dangerous, just fly four
hours per month to get out
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Page 4

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isn't hard at all. They try to keep
us a bit busy so the time will
pass fast which is O.K. for all of

us.
The (H) in my address isn't at
all necessary, I just stick in on
some times, it just means that
I'm in a heavy bomber group.
You can put it on or leave it
off, it doesn't matter.
I'm glad you got your trouble
at the yard all straightened out +
I certainly don't blame any of you,
you know how those big cos'
are, they will mess on you if
you let them. Hope you get to stay
if you want to but I'll bet a
skint nigger it wouldn't make
you need to get to go back to

Page 5

Longview. Gee, wouldn't it be nice
if you were there when I got back,
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My wrist is coming along fine
and it will be good as new before
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loosen up as time goes by and I
keep exercising it, certainly not
a thing to worry about.
Have been talking to Capt. Morrison
and he seems to think we will
have quite a few days at home
and I certainly hope he is right.
Things certainly turned out O.K.
after all over my broken arm.
I'll get to come home with the
fellows after all and thats just
thirteen times I didn't have to
fly through that German flak!

Page 6

I know this isn't much letter but
just had to let you know my
chances of coming home look good

and not to worry about a thing.
I'll write again very soon and
keep you posted on any news
that develops. I certainly hope it
won't be long before I can write
you and tell you to stop writing
me because I'm leaving for the
good ole U.S.A.

Just keep up the good work +
maybe it won't be long before we
will be seeing one another, that
can't come to soon to suit me
either cause I'm so hangary to
see the ones I love so much.

Your same loving don,
James Ferrell

Letter 36


S/Sgt. J.F. Jeter-38576238
742nd Sqdn 455th Bomb Gr AAF
A.P.O. #520-c/o Postmaster
U.S. ARMY
522
MAY 20
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Air Mail
Mr & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas.



May 18, 1945
Friday night
Italy

My dearest Mom & Pop,

Well this letter is going to be a wee bit different from the ones I've been writing because I actually have some news for a change and news I know you will welcome. There's no use beating around the bush and keeping you in suspense, when you receive this letter, don't write me anymore because very likely I'll be gone before I have a chance to receive them. Our pilot came in and told us to write home and tell everyone to stop writing. So now you know we should be on our way back to the states pretty soon. We still don't know



when we are to leave, probably won't until about twelve hours before hand but we expect it to be soon, between now and the first of June or very soon there after. You can see by that that I won't have time to get any of your letters after you get this as it will probably be around twenty seventh or eight before you get this and it would be at least the seventh of June before I could recieve an answer. I dont know if I'll have time to write you anymore because of leaving but I will let you know if anything else special comes up, even if I beat the letter back to the states. I want to tell you how grand I think your two darlings have been to write so



regular and so often, I get a letter real often. I just hope my letters have been coming in O.K. and that they were as big a pleasure to you in reading them as they were to me in writing them. I've tried to write pretty regular but I could have written more often I know but gee whiz news is so scarce. I've really enjoyed and fully appreciated every letter and package you send and I love you two more than you will ever know. I hope I can repay you someday, in part at least because I know I'll never be able to fully repay you for all your kindness, sweetness and thought-fullness. I do love you two with all my heart and I'm proud to be the son of two such grand parents.

4.



I don't think I've told to and to be sure I'll tells you now. We will fly back to the states I guess, at least we have been told we would and have been preparing for it. I'm very glad that we are because its faster and a lot less trouble to us. We won't have to wash in salt water and eat slop as we did on the way over. I can't gripe about that boatride over, I enjoyed it but I'd like very much to fly back. It should take us about 5 to 7 days to get back, depending on the weather. If we have bad weather ahead we will land and wait until it clears but this is the perfect time of the year to fly the atlantic and I'm anxious to leave. Now I don't want you two to worry one second about me because



everything is really working out very wonderful for us and God willing, I shall see you before the end of June. Course now there always a chance something may come up to delay our leaving so don't expect me too soon. Just be patient, don't worry and we will see one another pretty soon.

Recieved a very sweet letter with stamps and clippings from you and naturally I enjoyed it very much. I always feel better when I know you two are well and fine and not worrying about me. You certainly need not waste a minute worrying over me because I'm fine, just a bit impatient waiting to come home to the three people I love most in the world!

6.

Mom, I'm so glad that you received your Mothers Day gift o.k., I was a bit afraid you wouldn't get it until way afterwards. It was a bit early but I'm so glad that you liked it. Fathers Day is coming up in June & I have high hopes of being able to hand your present to your Dad. If everything works out like it's planned I will be. Hope Mothers Day was a pleasant and enjoyable one and the last one you spend with me so far away.

Glad everything is going so nice at the yard, hope they will continue to run smoothly. If you are still at it when I get home and Mom is in Longueuil as she plans, I hope you can come up. It certainly would be grand if you two could be back home for my furlough, I'd love

that but if you are still in Orange, I don't want you to do something you think you shouldn't and come up, you do what you think best and I'll be happy. I'm especially glad the water is down and you don't have a lot of pumps bothering you. You all really had it rough there for a while didn't you, thank goodness its over.

Glad you got the Ford fixed up and it certainly has been a swell car, I just hope the next one will be just half as good. Know you are proud of the fender and good brakes, hope you can get the new wiring. See in the paper we get every day that they are going to start building new cars soon, maybe you can buy a new one after they come out, hope so.

8.

The fishing should be good at Caddo this year because of the high water and if you are in Longview when I get home we will have to make it a point to go there at least one time. Wonder how the bream and goggle eye are biting in the drift? Gee, we really did catch a batch of nice ones there one time didn't we?

My arm is fine, don't have to go see the Captain anymore as he dismissed me, said no need to come back only if it gave me trouble. It's still stiff and a little weak and probably will be quite a while until I get full strength and use of it but its certainly nothing to worry about. Just have to keep exercising it and it will be O.K.

9.

We have a handball team here in the squadron and play a game almost every day. Have a pretty good team and I always go out and see the games. Had a swell game this evening with the 702nd Engineers and beat them 10 to 3, really did enjoy it.

Have been cleaning house the last couple of days and getting ready to pack on a minutes notice. Have thrown away all the junk I didn't need or want to lug home. We will have to travel light on the way home and I'll want to anyway because a lot of luggage puts a fellow to a lot of trouble. When I start home, the lighter I travel the better I'll like it because I can promise you I'll be in a big hurry!

10.

Well, darling, hope this will find you happy and in good spirits. Don't worry about not writing anymore as I'll probably get letters you have already written up to the time I leave. I'll write any news that comes up, but I hope we leave before we have a chance to write anymore. Guess I'd better close now and write a couple of other letters and tell them not to write me anymore.

Just remember your son loves you with all his heart and I will think of you until we see one another. Hope that will be soon.

your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 36

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

Passed by
US
27161
Army Examiner

U.S. Army Postal Service
May 20
1945

Page 1

May 18, 1945
Friday night
Italy

My dearest Mom + Pop;

Well this letter is going to be a wee bit different from the ones I've been writing because I actually have some news for a change, and news I know you will welcome. Theres n us beating around the bush and keeping you in suspense, when you recieve this letter, don't write me any-more because very likely I'll be gone before I have a chance to recieve them. Our pilot came in and tol dus to write home and tell everyone to stop writing, so now you know we should be on our way back to the states pretty soon. We still don't know

Page 2

when we are to leave, probably won't

until about twelve hours before hand
but we expect it to be soon, between
now and the first of June or very
soon thereafter. You can see by that
that I won't have time to get any of
your letters after you get this as it
will probably be around twenty seventh
or eight before you get this and I
would be a least the seventh of June
before I could recieve an answer. I
dont know if I'll have time to write
you anymore because of leaving but
I will let you know if anything else
special comes up, even if I beat
the letter back to the states. I want
to tell you how grand I think you
two darlings have been to write so

Page 3

regular and so often, I get a letter real
often. I just hope my letters have been
coming in O.K. and that they were
as big a pleasure to you in reading
them as they were to me in writing
them. I've tried to write pretty regular
but I could have written more often
I know but gee whiz news is so
scarce. I've really enjoyed and fully
appreciated every letter and package
you sent and I love you you two more
than you will ever know. I hope I
can repay you someday, in part
at least because I know I'll never
be able to fully repay you for all
your kindness, sweetness and thought-
fullness. I do love you two with all
my heart and I'm proud to be the
son of two such grand parents.

Page 4

I don't think I've told to and to be
sure I'll tell you know. We will fly

back to the states I guess; at least we have been told we would and have been preparing for it. I'm very glad that we are because its faster and a lot less trouble to us. We won't have to wash in salt water and eat slop as we did on the way over. I can't gripe about that boatride over, I enjoyed it but I'd like very much to fly back. It should take us about 5 to 7 days to get back, depending on the weather. If we have bad weather ahead we will land and wait until it clears but this is the perfect time of the year to fly the Atlantic and I'm anxious to leave. Now I don't want you two to worry one second about me because

Page 5

everything is really working out very wonderful for us and God willing, I shall see you before the end of June. Course now theres always a chance something may come up to delay out leaving so don't expect me too soon. Just be patient, don't worry and we will see one another pretty soon.

Recieved a very sweet letter with stamps and clippings from you and naturally I enjoyed it very much. I always feel better when I know you two are well and fine and not worrying about me. You certainly need not waste a minute worrying over me because I'm fine, just a bit impatient waiting to come home to the three people I love most in the world!

Page 6

Mom, I'm so glad that you recieved your Mother's Day gift O.K., I was a bit afraid you wouldn't get it until

way afterwords. It was a bit early
but I'm so glad that you liked it.
Father's Day is coming up in June +
I have high hopes of being able
to hand your present to you Dad. If
everything works out like its planned
I will to. Hope Mothers Day was a
pleasant and enjoyable one and the
last one you spend with me so far away.
Glad everything is going so nice
at the yard, hope they will continue
to run smoothly. If you are still
at is when I get home and Mom is
in Longview as she plans, I hope
you can come up. It certainly would
be grand if you two could be back
home for my furlough, I'd love

Page 7

that but if you are still in Orange, I
don't want you to do something you
think you shouldn't and come up,
you do what you think best and I'll
be happy. I'm especially glad the
water is down and you don't have
a lot of pumps bothering you. You
all really had it rough there for
a while, didn't you, thank goodness
its over!
Glad you got the Ford fixed up
and it certainly has been a swell
car. I just hope the next one will
be just half as good. Know you
are proud of the fender and good
brakes, hope you can get the
new wiring. See in the paper we
get everyday that they are going
to start building new cars soon,
maybe you can buy a new
one after they come out, hope so.

Page 8

The fishing should be good at Caddo this year because of the high water and if you are in Longview when I get home we will have to make it a paint to go there at least one time. Wonder how the brim and goggle eye are biting in the drift? Gee, we really did catch a batch of nice ones there one time didn't we?

My arm is fine, don't have to go see the Captain anymore as he dismissed me, said no need to come back only if it gave me trouble. Its still stiff and a little weak and probably will be quite a while until I get full strength and use of it but its certainly nothing to worry about. Just have to keep exercising it and it will be O.K.

Page 9

We have a hardball teams here in the squadron and play a game almost every day. Have a pretty good team and I always go out and see the games. Had a swell game this evening with the 702nd Engineers and beat them 10 to 3, really did enjoy it.

Have been cleaning house the past couple of days and getting ready to pack on a minutes notice. Have thrown away all the junk I didn't need or want to lug home. We will have to travel light on the way home and I'll want to anyway because a lot of luggage puts a fellow to a lot of trouble. When I start home, the lighter I travel the better I'll like it because I can promise you I'll be in a big hurry!

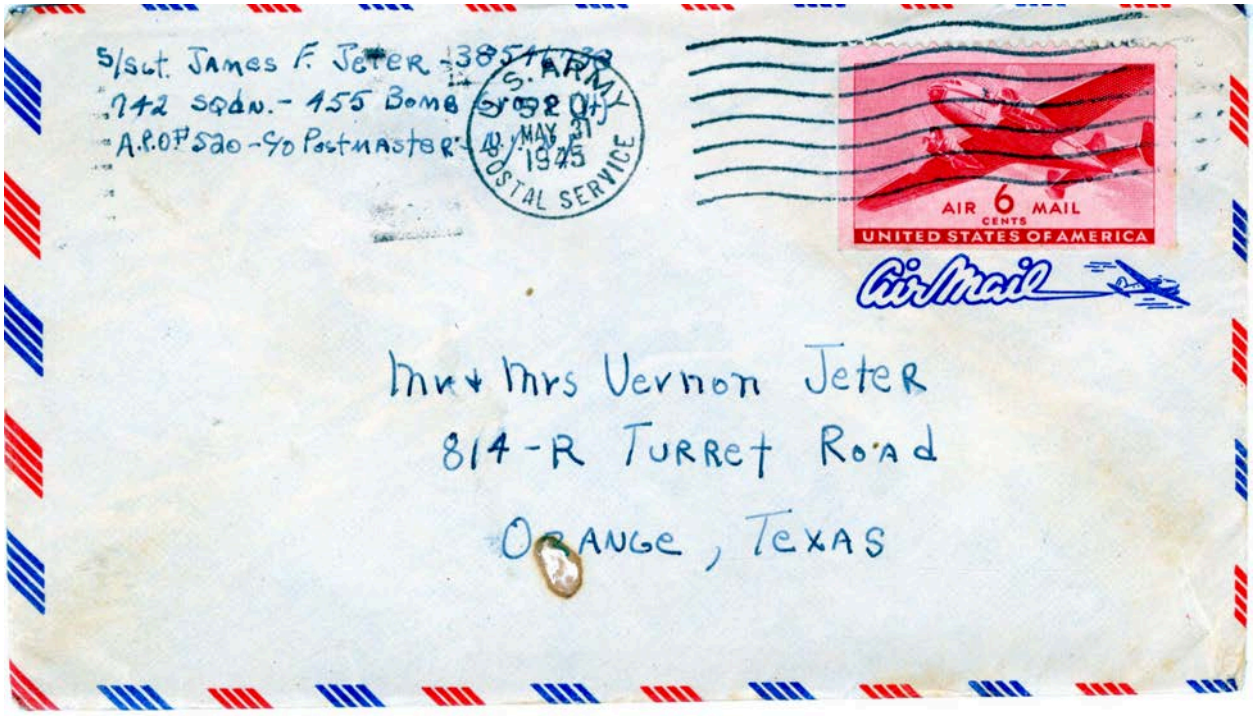
Page 10

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Just remember your son loves you with all his heart and I will think of you until we see one another hope that will be soon.

Your same loving son,
James Ferrell

Letter 37


S/Sgt. James F. Jeter
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Grp
A.P.O. 520 - % Postmaster
U.S. ARMY
MAY 31 1945
POSTAL SERVICE
AIR 6 CENTS MAIL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Air Mail
Mr. & Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
ORANGE, TEXAS

May 30, 1945
Wednesday p.m.
Italy

My darling Mom & Pop;

Well, I'm still here in Italy waiting to come home but so far everything is the same. We are all ready to go, all we have to have is our orders to leave and the sooner they give us those orders, the better I'll like it. We have absolutely no way of telling when we will leave but most everybody believes it will be pretty soon after the first of the month. I honestly believe I'll be in the states in June or at least on the way. Its like you say though, the Lord will do what is best and it won't do a bit of good to get impatient. The longer we stay here the less chance there is of going to the Pacific and its certainly safe and easy



here, just had to pass away the time. Its awfully hard to be patient and contented when its been so long since I've seen the ones I love, and especially knowing I'll get a nice furlough when I get back.

Recieved two swell letters from you yesterday and you know without my telling you that I enjoyed them very much, also thanks for the stamps and Air Mail stickers. I certainly hope we leave Italy before I recieve your last letter because it certainly would be rough to stay over here very long without a letter from the ones I love with all my heart. Have hopes of getting ready to leave before you even recieve this letter from me.

I'll bet you two did enjoy the few fish you caught at George Harveys and I will never forget the swell times we had



there on the time Dot blew her way thrue the bushes! Ha. I'll bet it did make you mad to have some body steal your hub caps, the theives must be as bad there as they are here. The darned Gooks will steal anything the can whether its any good or not. It just makes me plain mad to see in the paper or hear over the radio where somebody in the states wants to help these b_____ds over here, I hope nobody I know ever helps them because they don't need it and don't appreciate it when someone does help them. They tried to get us to give stuff to "the poor Italians" but not one single person gave anything! I wouldn't give them slops out of my house!

I feel sure the new bond drive will be a success like all the rest and it sure would tickle me if you did win that 1941 Buick, gee wouldn't that be something!



Glad Aunt Thelma is with Mama and I do know how you feel about the whole thing. It would have been more than you could have stood alone in Longview. I do hope she is better by now and will soon be feeling O.K. again. I don't blame you for not telling Aunt Thelma about Ray, imagine he is all o.k. again by now. Maybe O'Neill will get sent from El Paso to Longview next, at least he's a little closer home. Guess you were surprised to see Jarson, I'd like to see him, it's been years since I've seen any of them, but he was just the same as always.

I know this isn't much letter but I just had to let you hear from me. If I have time to write after we find out when we leave, I'll do so. Just remember your son loves his darling parents and is thinking of you all the time.

Loving you always,
James Ferrell

Letter 37

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
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Page 1

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the ones I love, and especially knowing
I'll get a nice furlough when I get back.
Recieved two swell letters from you
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ones I love with all my heart. Have hopes
of getting ready to leave before you even
recieve this letter from me.
I'll bet you two did enjoy the few fish
you caught at George Harveys and I will
never forget the swell times we had

Page 3

there or the time Dot blew her way thru
the bushes! Ha. I'll bet it did make you made
to have some body steal your hub cap,
the thieves must be as bad there as they
are here. The darned Gooks will steal
anything the can whether its any good
or not. It just makes me plain mad to
see in the paper or hear over the radio
where somebody in the states wants to
help these b–----ds over here, I hope
nobody I know ever helps them because
they don't need it and don't appreciate it
when someone does help them. They tried
to get us to give stuff to "the poor Italians"
but not one single person gave anything!
I wouldn't give them slop out of my house!
I feel sure the new bond drive will be
a success like all the rest and it sure
would tickle me if you did win that
1941 Buick, gee wouldn't that be something!

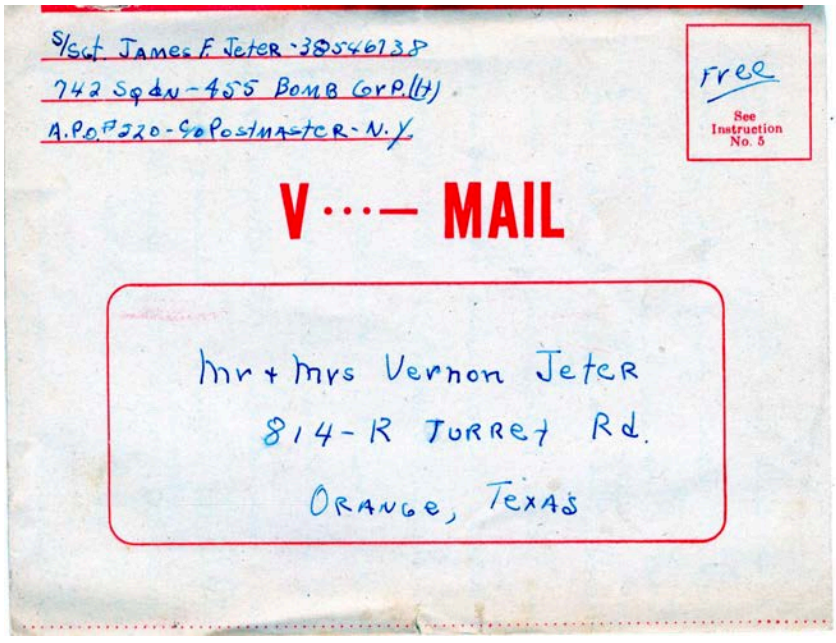
Page 4

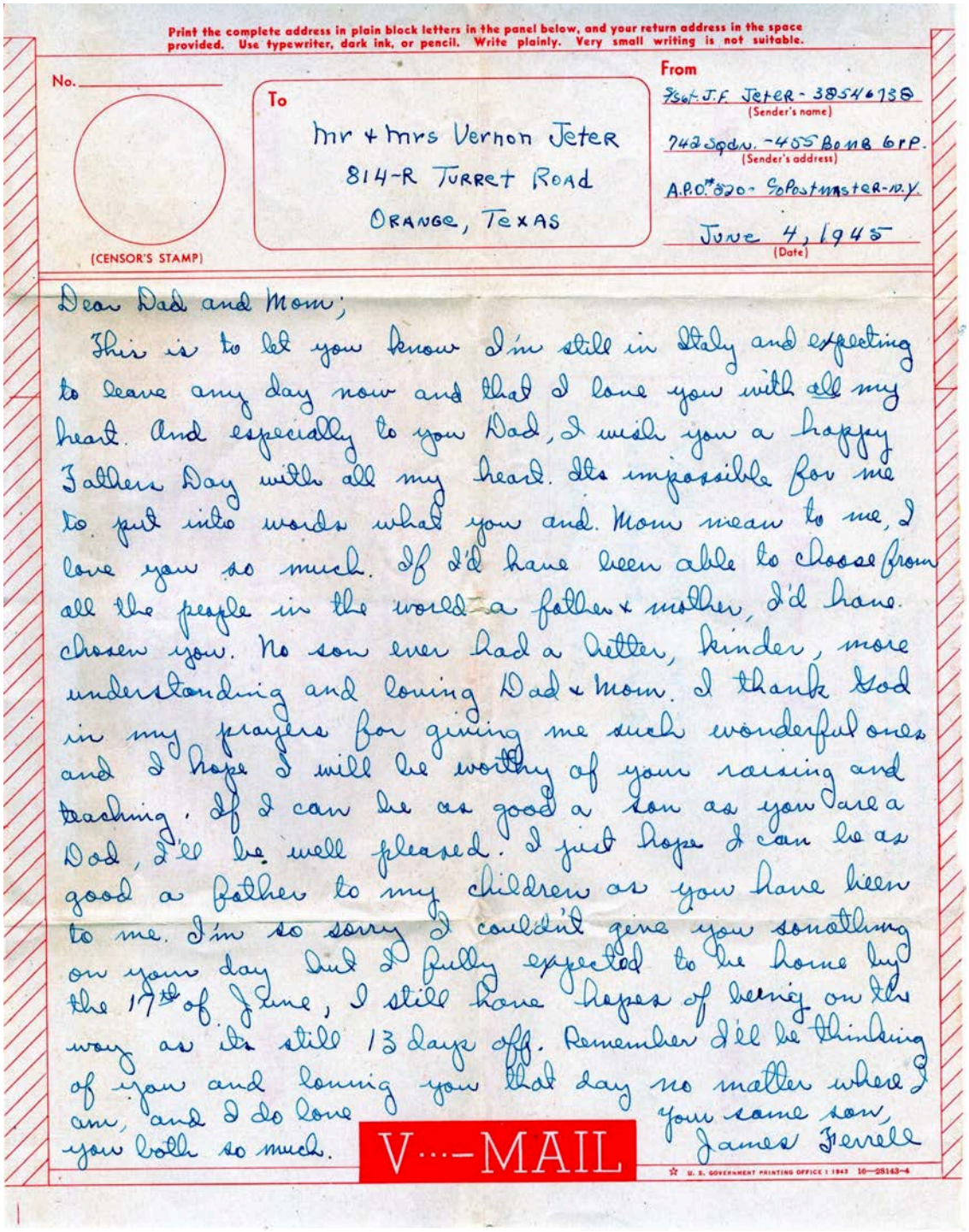
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I know this isn't much better but I just had to let you hear from me. If I have time to write after we find out when we have, I'll do so. Just remember your son loves his darling parents and is thinking of you all the time.

Loving you always,
James Ferrell

Letter 38





Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

From

S/Sgt. J.F. Jeter - 38546738
(Sender's name)
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Grp.
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y.
June 4, 1945
(Date)

Dear Dad and Mom;

This is to let you know I'm still in Italy and expecting to leave any day now and that I love you with all my heart. And especially to you Dad, I wish you a happy Fathers Day with all my heart. Its impossible for me to put into words what you and Mom mean to me, I love you so much. If I'd have been able to choose from all the people in the world a father + mother, I'd have chosen you. No son ever had a better, kinder, more understanding and loving Dad + Mom. I thank God in my prayers for giving me such wonderful ones and I hope I will be worthy of your raising and teaching. If I can be as good a son as you are a Dad, I'll be well pleased. I just hope I can be as good a father to my children as you have been to me. I'm so sorry I couldn't send you something on your day but I fully expected to be home by the 17th of June, I still have hopes of being on the way as its still 13 days off. Remember I'll be thinking of you and loving you that day no matter where I am, and I do love you both so much.

V···-MAIL

Your same son,
James Jerrell

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—28163-4

Letter 38

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

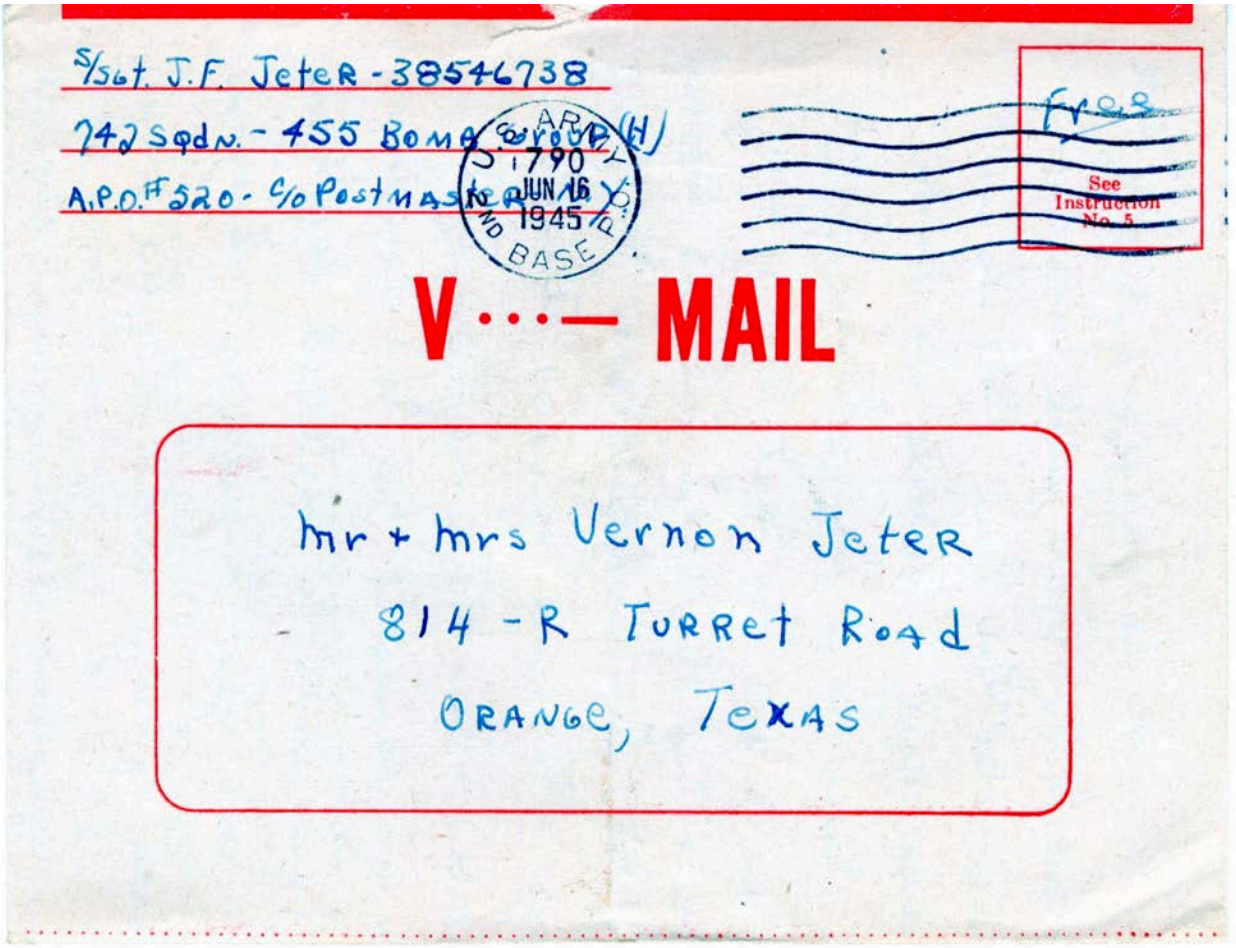
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Your same son,
James Ferrell

Letter 39



S/Sgt. J.F. Jeter - 38546738
742 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb Group (H)
A.P.O. #520 - c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

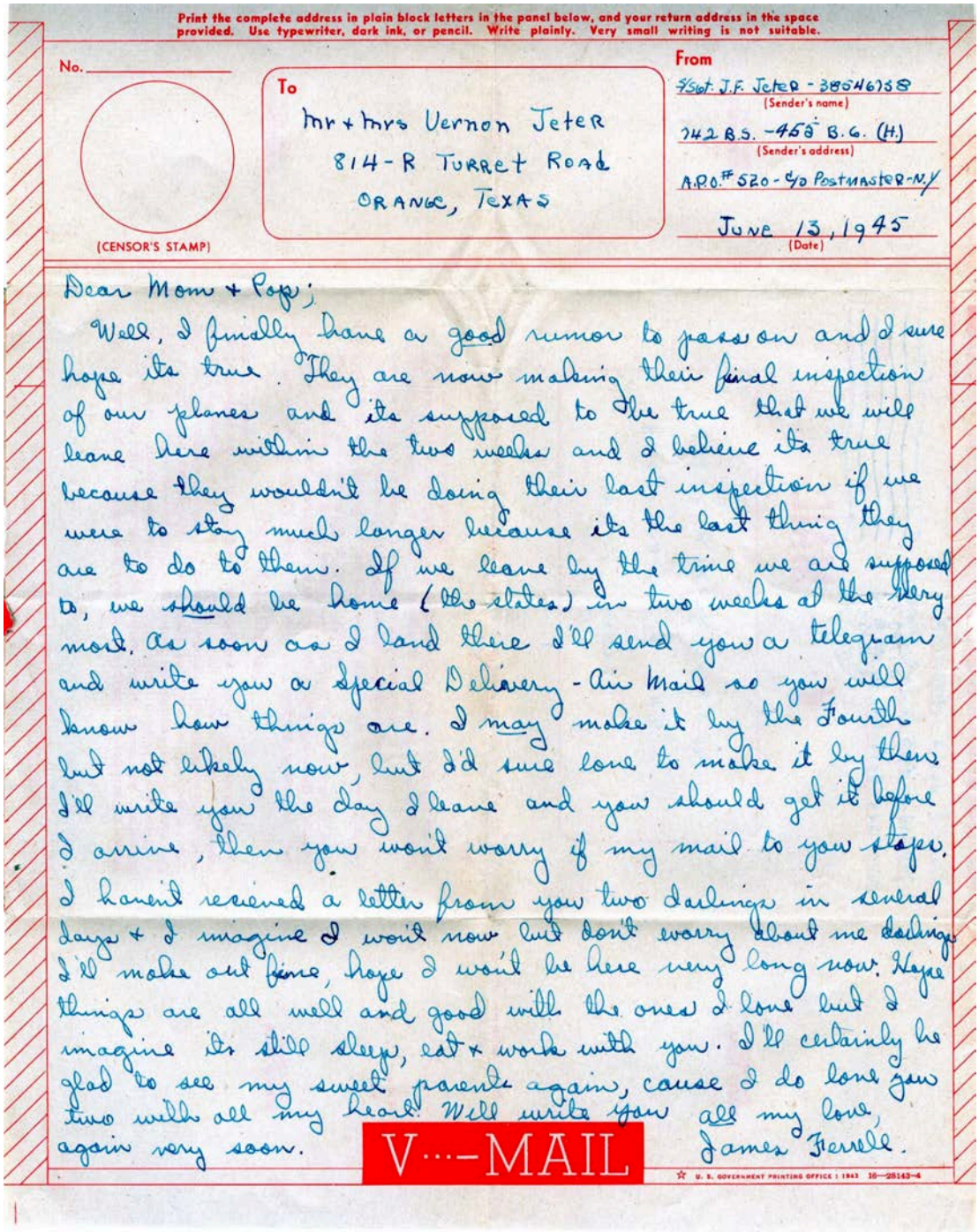
ARMY 790 JUN 16 1945 N.Y. 2ND BASE

Free

See Instruction No. 5

V ···— MAIL

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas



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Orange, Texas

From
S/Sgt. J.F. Jeter - 38546738
(Sender's name)
742 B.S. - 455 B.G. (H)
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. # 520 - c/o Postmaster-N.Y.

June 13, 1945
(Date)

Dear Mom + Pop;

Well, I finally have a good rumor to pass on and I sure hope its true. They are now making their final inspection of our planes and its supposed to be true that we will leave here within the two weeks and I believe its true because they wouldn't be doing their last inspection if we were to stay much longer because its the last thing they are to do to them. If we leave by the time we are supposed to, we should be home (the states) in two weeks at the very most. As soon as I land there I'll send you a telegram and write you a Special Delivery - Air Mail so you will know how things are. I may make it by the Fourth but not likely now, but I'd sure love to make it by then. I'll write you the day I leave and you should get it before I arrive, then you won't worry if my mail to you stops. I haven't received a letter from you two darlings in several days + I imagine I won't now but don't worry about me darlings I'll make out fine, hope I won't be here very long now. Hope things are all well and good with the ones I love but I imagine its still sleep, eat + work with you. I'll certainly be glad to see my sweet parents again, cause I do love you two with all my heart. Will write you all my love, again very soon.

V···-MAIL

James Ferrell.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—28143-4

Letter 39

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter

814 - R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

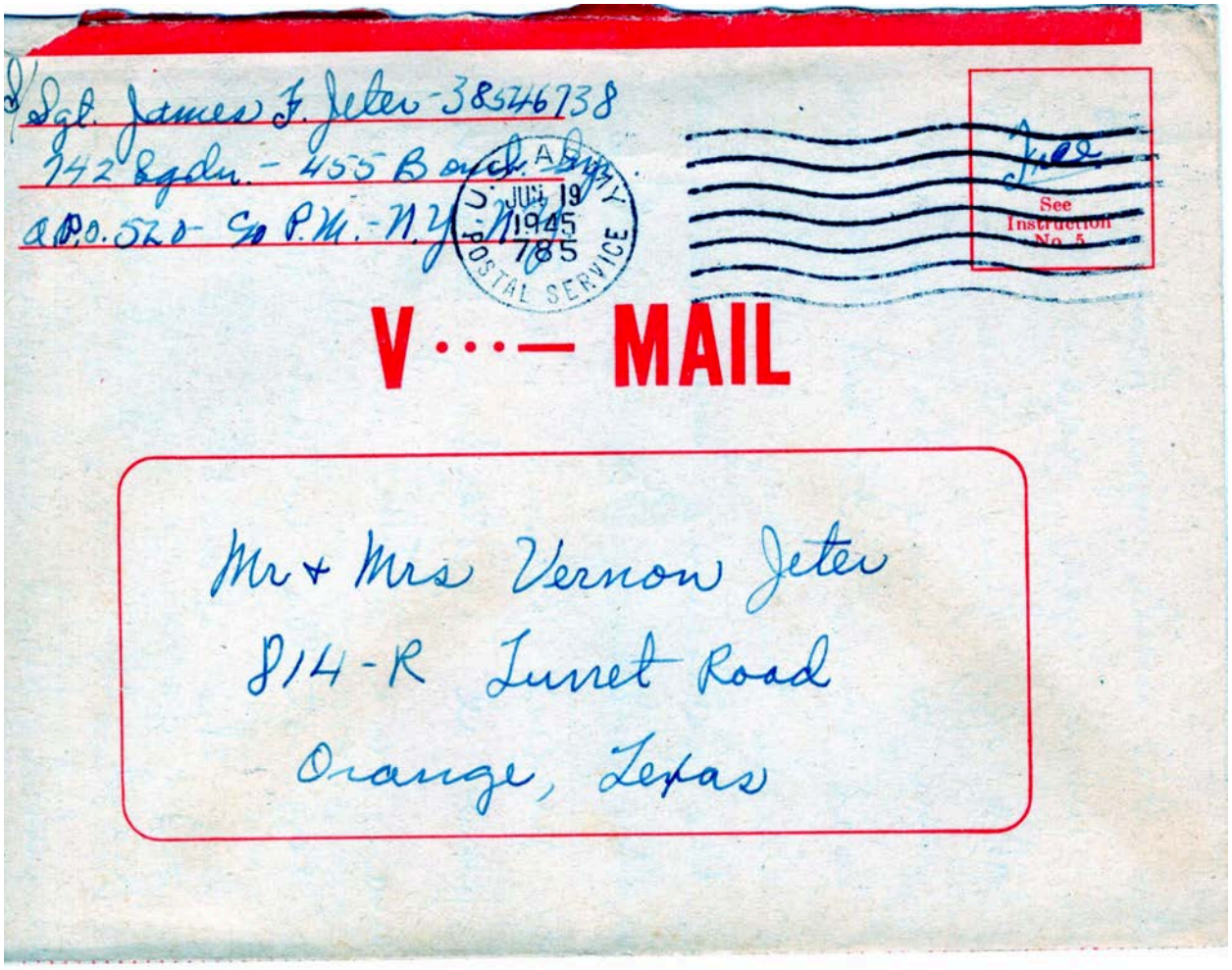
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All my love,
James Ferrell

Letter 40



Pvt. Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
342 Sqdn. - 455 Bomb. Group
A.P.O. 520 - c/o P.M. - N.Y.

U.S. ARMY
JUL 19
1945
7 8 5
POSTAL SERVICE

Jeter

See Instruction No. 5

V ···— MAIL

Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814-R Turret Road
Orange, Texas

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No. _____

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To Mr + Mrs Vernon Jeter
814 R- Turret Road
Orange, Texas

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S/Sgt. James F. Jeter - 38546738
(Sender's name)
942 Sqdn - 455 Bomb Grp.
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y.

June 18 1945
(Date)

My dearest Mom + Pop;
Well, this is it, the last letter I'll write you from Italy! We will be on our way home when you recieve this letter as we are scheduled to take off from here in just thirty-six hours. Today has been a busy day as we had to pack our bags and load them into the plane. Tomorrow the inspectors will check the ship over to see that its loaded correctly and the following morning we will head for home, the weather being O.K. and it sure should be because its been perfect flying weather for several weeks. We test flew it yesterday to check her over and everything was O.K.. The way we all figure it we should be in the states within the next ten days and home by the Fourth. I will send you a telegram the first chance I get and let you know I'm back and that everything is O.K. Don't worry about the trip across because the way its planned, we can make it easy and the ship is in perfect shape, even down to brand new tires. Remember I'll keep loving you and thinking of you until I see you, and that shouldn't be very long from now!

all my love, James Jr.

V···-MAIL

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—28143-4

Letter 40

S/Sgt. James F. Jeter 38546738
742 Squadron - 455 Bomb Group
A.P.O. #520 - % Postmaster - N.Y., N.Y.

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Page 1

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