

Did you write to Donnell?
If you haven't, please do.

Greenville, N.C.
Jan. 31, '43

My darling Boy,

Your letter came Friday. You wrote it Sunday. Who would think it takes that long for mail to reach here? You only mentioned getting one box. I've sent three. One contained stationery etc., the other shoe polish and brushes. The third tie and handkerchiefs. The last one wasn't insured, but the first two were. And I did not register the letter containing the \$5. That makes \$25 I've sent you. I wonder if you have received any pay yet. Mary Forbes told me to write Pilot Life Ins. Co. to draw a draft on your account at G.B. Trust Co. for the premium due on your insurance. Being we had just two more weeks before days of grace expired, I just sent the twenty dollars myself. The ~~check~~ receipt hasn't come yet. It will be due again in three months.

We had a cold rainy week, and for five days no sunshine, nothing but slush, rain and fog. The sun is shining today and seems mighty good to look at. It is still right cold. How do you stand being out in such rotten weather? Please do not try to go when you are sick with cold - if you do they will keep expecting you to, and you may have pneumonia. I've heard they make it as tough on you as they can to see how much you can stand - and if you can go through then they put you in a tough place sure enough. They can't toughen your head trouble. Let them know your head hurts even though you get no relief. It seems that they are leaving a lot of

This is the way to spell preference.

sound ones in the last call. I heard that there were so many who failed to pass.

Roy Cox, jr. is missing some where overseas, Bernard Spillman, John Johnston, (James' brother), and I'm sending you a clipping about Stanley Woolfolk. Was he engaged to the Martha Bland you know?

You asked my impression of the war from what I read and hear over the radio. Well, son, I think what the Russians have done is wonderful, but they have a long way to go yet. And as I've heard Hitler has put the Rumanians, Austrians, and conquered soldiers of other countries to the front to be slaughtered, and it may be that he is holding back his best German fighters. Any way, I think that he realizes he has failed in his Russian conquest as it may turn out. But I believe Germany is tremendously strong yet, and I think Hitler is going to prove it this year in Tunisia, and whenever the Allies invade Europe, as most every one thinks they will. Then, in my estimation, will be the toughest part of the war. I pray to God you don't have to go over.

And speaking of praying, son, I am so glad to know you are trusting in God to see you through. Let Him be part of your thoughts each day. You say you have a testament. Read Matthew 18 - 19, 20 verses. Note in my name. Also " 21 - 22 verse. John 14 - 13, 14, 15 verses, John 16 - 23 verse. They are words of promise to all who believe. I hope they will sustain and help you as they do me, for I do pray for you during the day and before retiring each night, and I ask it in Jesus' name.

you say you are busy every minute of the day. What is your work, what tires you most? I suppose you all have to keep the barracks clean, work in the kitchen and drill. Well what else? Do you have to grub stumps? And how long does this basic training last? Have you any idea whether you will stay there or be sent to another camp? Do you have any special friends among the soldiers? I suppose their problems are about like yours and a lot of others. All away from home and miss seeing their friends. I hope and pray for the war to soon end, but I'm afraid it will be a good while yet. not this year, some people say; others think it may be three or four. Only God knows.

We want to see you so much. I press your overcoat to me sometime when I go through the hall - it is hanging there looking so familiar. It almost makes Laura cry to see your car driven up and you not in it. Rosalind said she changed the furniture in your room last week, putting the bed in the other corner and moving the chest of drawers on the other side. However, I'm sure your and Va's pictures are still side by side and very close together!

Sunday is a very lonesome day. We are patriotic enough that we stay home all day. Will doesn't even go to town to take any milk. We carry what we have on Saturday. Rosalind and Wilbur walked down here last Sunday P. M. They said they were

going to the Woolfolk funeral this afternoon. They try to go to church once each Sunday, either in the morning or at night.

Frank Brown's mother died last Tuesday. Rosalind and I talked to Frank about fixing the grease trap up to her house. It, ^{the sink} has been stopped up for 2 months. I bought a big piece of tiling like the one I had fixed here last summer. We want this fixed with separate outlet, so I'm buying more small tiling. The big piece for the grease trap 2 ft. wide, and 3 ft. long cost \$6.75. I hope for Wilbur to help with the work and maybe I can get out cheaper.

I am trying to take care of Daddy the best I can! He is getting along very well now because there isn't as much to do as will be later on, and not so hot now. The heat is terrible for him during the summer months. He likes to hear from you and waits eagerly for your letters. I don't think a boy any where is loved more by his folks at home than you are. Every time Sister comes she looks around to see if I've got a new letter from you.

I think Miss Martha Lee told Rosalind to tell you that a Smith girl from Greenville, (not Mary Lee) is in Paris, Texas teaching, and that you might like to look her up sometime. I think she said "Phoebe" Smith's sister. Isn't he the one who used to clerk for Burney Warren? Anyway, you could see sometime - just so she isn't that hateful set of Smiths!

Lots of love from mother and Daddy