

NAME: James

RANK: Captain

ORGANIZATION: 1st Cavalry Division

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following text is directly from an original wartime letter written by James. This is one of many letters from James in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following text is presented under public domain provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text aside from edited racial slurs and profanity for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

James writes his wife in the United States:

“MARCH 19 1944

WHAT HO, CHUM:

THIS IS A H _L OF A NOTE – HAVING TO WRITE ON THE BACK OF ONE OF YOUR LETTERS – BUT THERE JUST ISNT ANY PAPER WITHIN REACH. I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON. YOUR BEATEN OLD LOVER LANDED IN THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS EARLIER IN THE MONTH AND HAS BEEN MOVING AND FIGHTING EVER SINCE.

TODAY THERE HAS BEEN A LET-UP, MAINLY BECAUSE THERE AREN'T MANY OF OUR LITTLE B _O _N BROTHERS LEFT. THEY ARE STRANGE CREATURES, CHUM. YOU RARELY SEE THEM UNTIL AFTER THEY'VE FIRED A FEW ROUNDS AT YOU – (OUT OF INK) AND THEY STAY IN THEIR HOLES AND KEEP SHOOTING UNTIL THEY ARE KILLED. WE'VE SEEN A LOT OF DEAD ONES, FEW LIVE ONES.

THEY USUALLY ATTACK AT NIGHT, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU GET VERY LITTLE SLEEP. ALL IN ALL, YOUR LOVER HAS BEEN HAVING A VERY RUGGED GO OF IT.

I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE GORY DETAILS WHEN I SEE YOU AGAIN. MEANTIME I AM A VERY TIRED CHARACTER AND AM STRETCHED OUT ON THE GROUND WHENCE I DO NOT PROPOSE TO LEAVE UNTIL DRIVEN BY H _L OR HIGH WATER.

THEY GOT MAIL TO US ONCE A FEW DAYS AGO AND I DREW ONE LETTER POSTMARKED FEB 12. WHEN I OPENED THE D_MM_D THING EVERY WORD HAD BEEN WASHED OUT BY RAIN WHICH INFURIATED ME NO END.

I GOT TO WASH OUT MY CLOTHES AND BATHE TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I LANDED AND THEY BROUGHT UP SOME MORE MAIL, INCLUDING THE ONE OF FEB. 14TH AND THE V-MAILS OF FEB 18, 22, AND 23RD.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR ABOUT THE PICTURE, ALTHOUGH UNTIL THINGS SETTLE DOWN I'LL

HAVE NO PLACE TO PUT IT. EVERYTHING I HAVE IS ON MY BACK. ALSO, I LEFT MY DISPATCH CASE BEHIND ONE NIGHT WITH YOUR NEWS PHOTO IN IT AND SOME LOW THUG STOLE IT.

I AM ENCLOSING THE PICTURES I TOOK BACK IN NEW GUINEA AND WHICH JUST REACHED ME TODAY. ALSO THERE IS A JAPANESE NOTE WHICH I TOOK FROM A GUY WHO DIDNT NEED IT ANY MORE. THERE WERE ALL SORTS OF SAMUARI SWORDS LYING ABOUT BUT WE WERE ALL TOO FAGGED OUT AND LOADED DOWN TO BOTHER ABOUT CARRYING THEM.

I'LL WRITE MORE FULLY WHENEVER WE GET STRAIGHTENED AWAY, CHUM. IN THE MEANTIME IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE WORST WAS OVER FOR THE PRESENT SO DONT WORRY ABOUT YOUR ADORING SPOUSE WHO LOVES YOU MADLY.

JAMES''

- James was killed in action later in the Second World War.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period and James' organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/gov.archives.arc.39001>
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers James' wartime organization, the 1st Cavalry Division (reader discretion advised):**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Cavalry_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Cavalry_Division_(United_States))