WORLD WAR II

SOUTH PACIFIC LETTERS

BY

Raymond P. Boylston, Jr.

WWII SOUTH PACIFIC LETTERS

During World War II, Samuel Lionel Boylston of Springfield, South Carolina, served in the 13th Army Air Force in the South Pacific. The 13th AAF was known as the Jungle Air Force since it was part of General Douglas MacArthur's island hopping campaign from Australia to the Philippines. Sam Boylston was assigned to the 13th AAF headquarters unit and often moved ahead of the main headquarters to establish advanced bases. He was subjected to Japanese bombing attacks and received a 13th AAF commendation for bravery in transporting wounded during an air raid.

This book describes Sgt. Sam Boylston's 13th AAF experiences from the time he was drafted in 1942 until his return home in 1945. The theme of the entire book is the letters Sam wrote his family and friends while serving in the Army Air Force. His letters are unique, since he was an artist and drew cartoons on the outside of the envelopes of his letters. These water color cartoons picture typical army scenes and humorous events associated with army life.

To provide readers the "big picture" of World War II, all the key war events are described along with Sam's letters and his movement with the 13th AAF through the South Pacific. This gives readers a clearer picture of what was happening on a world wide basis and a better understanding of the South Pacific campaign. However, the main impact of the book is the insight provided by Sam Boylston's letters concerning how it was to serve his country during Work War II in the South Pacific.

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Raymond P. Boylston, Jr.

BOYLSTON ENTERPRISES
4713 SCOLLAY COURT
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27609

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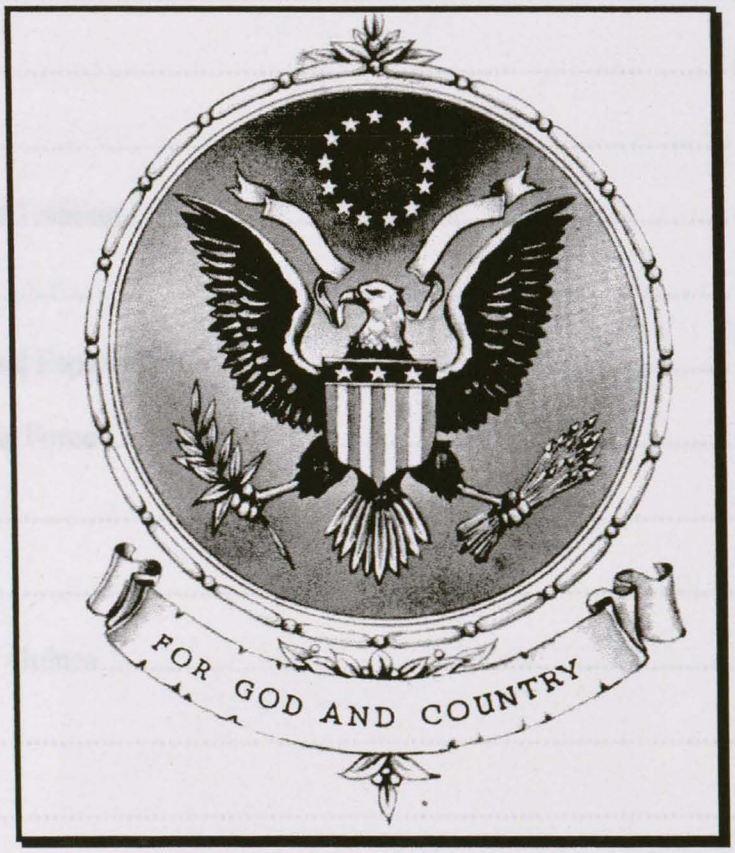
Raleigh, North Carolina

WORLD WAR II

SOUTH PACIFIC LETTERS



BY

RAYMOND P. BOYLSTON, JR.

1997

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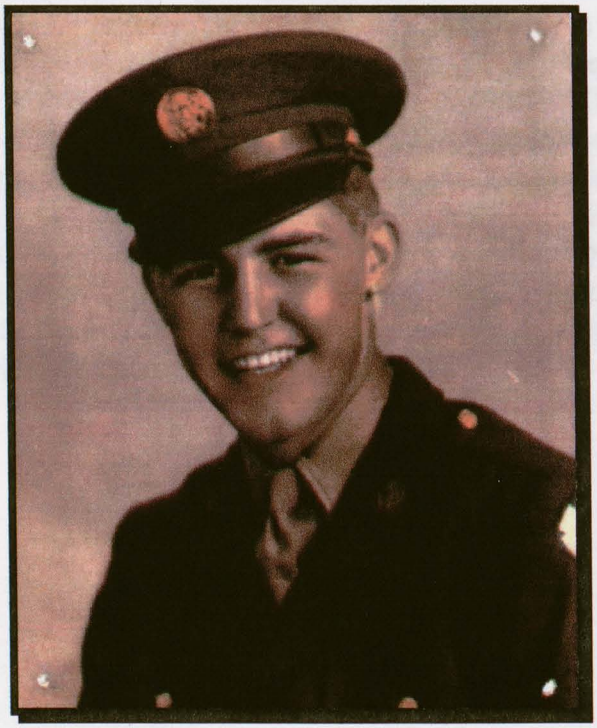
DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my brother Samuel Lionel Boylston and all his friends who served in the 13th Army Air Force in the South Pacific during World War II. They gave up about four years of their youth to serve their country in defeating Japan, thousands of miles away in the remote South Pacific. Many gave all they had - their lives, while others were wounded and disabled. Sam and his friends, who returned home, would never forget their experiences together. For those of us on the home front waiting for them to return, let us never forget the sacrifice they made to assure our safety and freedom.

Raymond P. Boylston, Jr.



PREFACE

World War II, which began in Europe in 1939, was the greatest conflict the world had ever experienced. The conflict involved more nations and parts of the world than ever before. World War II killed more people, cost more money, damaged more property, affected more people, and caused more far-reaching changes than any other war in history. Over 6 million Americans served in the Army, while 3.4 million were in the Navy, and 2.4 million in the Army Air Forces. Each of the four services had its women's auxiliary, and a total of 200,000 women enlisted. This book is about one Army Air Force Sergeant, Samuel Lionel Boylston, from Springfield, South Carolina who was drafted in 1943 and served in the 13th Army Air Force in the South Pacific. His story is similar to many other World War II veterans. However, his story is different, in that many of his letters were saved. They provide a unique insight into the life of a World War II serviceman. One unusual aspect of Sam's story is that, being an artist, he used watercolors and ink to draw interesting cartoons on the outside of the envelopes he mailed home. Also, he drew many cartoon envelopes for his friends to mail letters home. These cartoon envelopes provide the connecting thread for this entire book. The book is told from the prospective of a young teenager about his older brother. Unlike many others, this story has a happy ending, in that Sam did return safely to complete his college education and live a long, happy married life with two children and four grandchildren.

INTRODUCTION

World War II (WWII) began on September 1, 1939, when Germany attacked Poland. Many Polish cities were devastated. Soon, thereafter most major countries of the world were involved in the most destructive war in history. Before it was over, more people would be killed than during any previous conflict. It also cost more money, damaged more property, and caused more far-reaching changes than any other war. It brought sweeping changes in warfare including the Atomic Bomb.

During WWII, men fought in almost every part of the world. The major battlegrounds were Asia, Europe, North Africa, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea. This book focuses attention on the South Pacific theater and the American Army Air Force involved there.

The seeds for WWII were planted during post World War I in Europe. A new kind of dictator emerged; the totalitarian strong man leading to Communism, Fascism, and Nazism. Stalin took over in Russia after the death of Lenin. Mussolini ascended to power in Italy. Hitler attempted and then succeeded in overthrowing the German government. Also, Japan invaded China in 1937.

In 1935, the Saraland rejoined Germany. A year later Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland. Then, in 1938, Germany took over Austria. Since no country confronted him, Hitler then invaded Poland in 1939. Finally, France and Britain entered the war against Germany and Italy, which had joined Germany. In 1940, Hitler attacked Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and then France. By June of that year, Germany had conquered most of Europe, including France. However, the British troops had escaped at Dunkirk.

By August, 1940, German planes were attacking England daily. England would have been invaded, except for the brave English fighter pilots who defeated the Germans in the Battle of Britain.

The United States had sought, unsuccessfully to muster international opposition to the Japanese invasions of Manchuria and China. In 1940, the U.S. banned the sale of strategic materials to Japan, including scrap iron and oil. The U.S. and Britain froze all Japanese funds under their control. These actions prompted the Japanese to begin planning an attack on the U.S. in the Pacific. The American fleet was all that stood in their way.

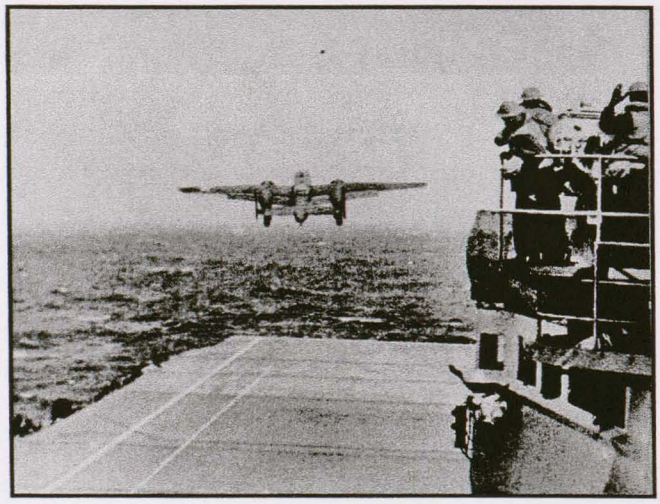
Unlike the Germans, the Japanese had a finite and audacious scheme to win the war. They first postulated crippling the U.S. Pacific fleet, especially the battleships at Pearl Harbor. At that time, battleships were considered the most important of all naval vessels. Later, it would evolve that the aircraft carrier was the ultimate weapon in the Pacific. After their Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese planned rapid invasions of Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, and Singapore. At the same time the Philippines and Dutch East Indies would be taken.

Although the U.S. expected war with Japan, it underestimated its foe and did not consider Pearl Harbor in danger, despite warnings to the contrary.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, a Japanese naval task force headed by Admiral Yamomoto, attacked Pearl Harbor. The surprise was complete with the Japanese carrier planes sinking or severely damaging the battleships, West Virginia, Tennessee, Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, and California. As luck would have it, the U.S. carriers were away from Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack and were spared. Immediately following the attack, the U.S. declared war on Japan, Germany, and Italy. By mid 1942, the Japanese had succeeded in conquering most of the Pacific. By May, 1942, the last U.S. troops in the Philippines surrendered at Corregidor.

When the Japanese invaded the Borneo oil fields and Java, in February, 1942, an Allied naval flotilla of American, Australian, and Dutch ships met the Japanese in the Battle of the Java Sea. The entire Allied fleet was destroyed in the three-day battle. This left the Japanese in command of the Pacific, except for the U.S. aircraft carriers. Australia was open to invasion when the Japanese invaded New Guinea and bombed Darwin in Australia. Every effort was being made to protect the supply line to Australia.

Early 1942 was a dark period for the U.S. in the war. Most of the news was bad. German U-boats were sinking many American ships in sight of the U.S. coast. America needed a boost in morale by some small victory. It came in the form of Col. James (Jimmy) Doolittle's raid on Tokyo on April 18, 1942. His sixteen B-25 twin engine medium bombers, which had trained in Columbia, SC, took off from the aircraft carrier, Hornet, about 670 miles east of Tokyo. They bombed Tokyo, causing little damage, but created great concern by the Japanese and great joy for all Americans. Most of Doolittle's planes reached China, while one landed in Russia.



National Archives: B-25 Bomber Takes Off The USS Hornet for Doolittle Raid on Tokyo in April, 1942

The Battle of the Coral Sea, in May, 1942, demonstrated that the aircraft carrier was the greatest innovation in naval warfare, during WWII. The battle resulted from the Japanese attempt to invade Port Moresby on New Guinea. The Japanese carrier Shoko and the U.S. carrier, Lexington, were lost, but the invasion was repulsed. This was the first sea battle, where the ships never sighted each other. The battle was fought by carrier aircraft and land based planes of the 5th and 13th AAF from Australia, Port Morsby and Espiritu Santo.

The long series of Japanese victories in the Pacific came to an end with the Battle of Midway, on June, 4 and 5, 1942. It was the first defeat ever suffered by the Japanese Navy. At Midway, the Japanese lost four heavy carriers, a heavy cruiser, 322 planes, and 3,500 men against the loss of one American carrier, the Yorktown, 150 planes and 307 men. After Midway, the Japanese strived to hold what they had taken thus far in the war. However, from that point forward the Allies were on the offensive.

Following the victory at Midway, the U.S. troops in the South Pacific went on the offensive with the invasion of Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942. During the Guadalcanal campaign, there was a series of naval engagements which further demonstrated American superiority.

Sam Boylston was drafted into the Army in 1943, and assigned to the 13th Army Air Force in the South Pacific. This book concerns his experiences in the South Pacific and those of his family, who remained at home.

THE WAR BEGINS

My first memory of WWII was when I was nine years old, while watching my older brother, Samuel Lionel Boylston, practice high school football on September 1, 1939. A group of the younger boys always gathered at the practice field to see the older boys practice. We usually sat on wooden benches built around the large pecan trees near the football field.

That particular day, some of the boys were talking about the news report that came over the radio that day. It seemed that the Germans had invaded a country called Poland in Europe. I knew enough geography to understand where it was. Also, I knew about the Germans, since my Uncle Wyatt and his friends had fought the Germans in France in World War I. Some of the people living in Springfield, South Carolina had been wounded by the Germans in WWI. I remember Mr. Bailey had trouble talking because he had been gassed in France.

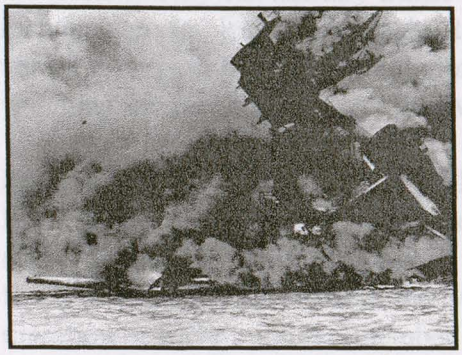
Little did I know that September day in 1939, that Germany's invasion of Poland would lead to the greatest World War of all times. Also, I didn't realize the impact the war would have on me, my family, and most families throughout the nation. That day, it seemed so far away and we were not involved.

However, as time progressed, it became very clear that something very important was going on. All my family seemed concerned and listened to the news reports on the radio. My grandfather was 67 years old and his son, my Uncle Wyatt, served in WWI in France. My grandfather had also heard from his father, James Wyatt Boylston about his four brothers who served in the Confederate Army and two uncles who were killed in the Civil War in Virginia. Also, he was old enough to understand what was happening and that the U.S. would likely be drawn into the conflict. Each evening he sat by his small table radio, listening to Gabriel Heater's news broadcast. No one was allowed to talk when the news was on, so I listened, also. I can hear Gabriel Heater now saying, "It's a sad story tonight". In those days there was nothing but sad news.

There was one German victory after another. It seemed that they could not be stopped. They marched through Poland, Holland Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. The English were driven from the continent. However, many of the English troops were saved at Dunkirk. By August, 1940, German planes were bombing England. Only the valor of the English fighter pilots, during the Battle of Britain, saved England. Winston Churchill said, "Never has so many owed so much to so few".

While the war in Europe was capturing everyone's attention, there was a growing menace in the Far East. We had heard of the Japanese invasion of China, but it was so far away and didn't seem to be a threat. No one in Springfield ever mentioned the war in China or the Japanese. There was practically no concern about Japan by the average American, including the radio newsmen.

In October, 1940, Hitler turned his attention toward Yugoslavia and Greece. By May, 1941, Yugoslavia and Greece were conquered and the Germans had launched an airborne invasion of Crete. A month later, the Germans invaded Russia. The Russians continued falling back against the German onslaught. The "bad news" continued.

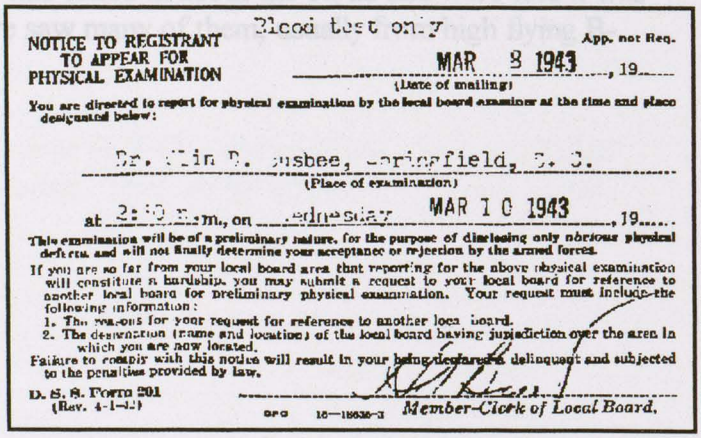


National Archives: USS Arizona Burns at Pearl Harbor Following Japanese Attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

About the time we didn't think the news could get any worse, it did! The Japanese delivered a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941, destroying most of the American fleet, except for the aircraft carriers. It was "a date which will live in infamy", as stated by President Franklin Roosevelt.

My brother, Sam, finished high school in 1940 and went to the University of South Carolina, in Columbia, South Carolina. He was able to complete two years of college before being informed, in 1942, that he would be drafted. Once he heard this, he dropped out of school and worked until his draft notice arrived.

It was about three o'clock Sunday afternoon, on December7, 1941, when I was 11 years old that I first heard of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Few people in Springfield knew where Pearl Harbor was. Most thought it was on the west coast of the U.S. Everyone had their ears glued to the radio for the remainder of the day. Gradually, we began to understand what had happened and where it was.



Blood test only

App. not Req.

NOTICE TO REGISTRANT TO APPEAR FOR PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

MAR 8 1943, 19

(Date of mailing)

You are directed to report for physical examination by the local board examiner at the time and place designated below:

Dr. Olin D. Busbee, Springfield, S. C.

(Place of examination)

at 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday MAR 10 1943, 19

This examination will be of a preliminary nature, for the purpose of disclosing only obvious physical defects, and will not finally determine your acceptance or rejection by the armed forces.

If you are so far from your local board area that reporting for the above physical examination will constitute a hardship, you may submit a request to your local board for reference to another local board for preliminary physical examination. Your request must include the following information:

1. The reasons for your request for reference to another local board.
2. The designation (name and location) of the local board having jurisdiction over the area in which you are now located.

Failure to comply with this notice will result in your being declared a delinquent and subjected to the penalties provided by law.

D. S. S. Form 201 (Rev. 4-1-42)

GPO 16—18636-3

Member-Clerk of Local Board.

Sam Boylston's army physical notice The physical exam was conducted by Dr. Olin D. Busbee, who, after World War II became Sam's father-in-law.

The next day, we heard President Roosevelt ask Congress to declare war on Japan. War was declared and we listened to more "bad news".

In 1942, my family moved from Springfield, S. C. to Graniteville, S. C., about 40 miles away. My mother ran a restaurant for Graniteville Company, a textile company. My father operated a filling station for Graniteville Company, next to the restaurant. We lived in a house only a few yards from U.S. Highway No. I, in Stieffeltown, S. C., about 3 miles from Graniteville. Before Sam entered the Army, he lived with us in Stieffeltown and worked for Graniteville Company. We lived in Stieffeltown and I went to Graniteville High School during the entire war, from 1942 to 1946.

Since our home in Stieffeltown was on U.S. Highway No. 1, I had a ring side seat for viewing the war at home. Highway No. I was the major North-South highway in the Eastern U.S. All military traffic used the highway, including trucks, jeeps, half-tracks, tanks and amphibious vehicles. I spent many hours standing by the road watching the military convoys and waving to the troops.

National Archives: Army Recruitment Poster by James Montgomery Flagg

Prior to moving to Graniteville, while still in Springfield, I served as a civilian observer for the Army. People were asked to man special watch stations and report on aircraft flying overhead. We reported the type of plane and the direction of travel. I still remember the telephone call number: "Army Flash 9105". That was a reminder that we were at war. It was about this time that I saw my first airplane vapor trail. I was visiting my cousin, Bartow, in Aiken, S. C. when we looked up and saw one long straight cloud stretching completely across the sky. We had no idea what it was and only later read in the paper, that many people had called in about the cloud and were told it was an airplane vapor trail. From then on, we saw many of them, usually from high flying B-17's.

DRAFTED & BASIC TRAINING

My brother Sam, who was seven years older than me, was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Camp Grant, Rockford, IL for basic training in the Medical Corps in April, 1943. The following is his first letter home after being drafted.

Wednesday

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Well, I've arrived and gone through more paper checking. They showed me how to make a bed and the food is fine. I think it's going to be OK soon as I'm stationed.

We get our uniforms in the morning.

I brought my tan coat with me because it was pretty bad weather and cold. Stand tests tomorrow and then come the shots.

Hope you are feeling better and tell everyone hello for me.

Your loving son,
Lionel

P.S. Tell Junior to be good and I'll bring him something. Don't write me until I give you my address.

A letter from Sam to Mother and Dad on June 14, 1943 is shown below. Sam was called Lionel, his middle name, by his family at home. Thus, all his letters were signed, Lionel.

Pvt. S. L. Boylston
(34652927)
Bld. T-205 1st Ptn.
Co. B 26th M.T.B.
Camp Grant, IL

Sunday, June 14, 1943

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Been doing a little washing and shining brass all day and also cleaning up. By the way, if you can get some steel wool, send it to me. You can't buy the stuff up here.

I got Mama's box yesterday. It was really nice, a large cake, cookies, candy and also parched peanuts. I really enjoyed it.

Lemonte and I were in town last night and saw a picture show. I could have gone to Chicago, but didn't go.

I'm still in non-com school and doing O.K., I guess. Yesterday the sergeant told us we would get a furlough after we finished this training. If we were detached to an overseas unit we would get fifteen days. So maybe I'll be home by August. The weather is fine and the hikes are getting longer. Go on an 18 mile hike tomorrow.

I'm glad things are O.K. at home. Write soon. Love to all.

Your loving son,

Lionel

PS
I'm sending Roy's $5.00.
Tell Junior to write.

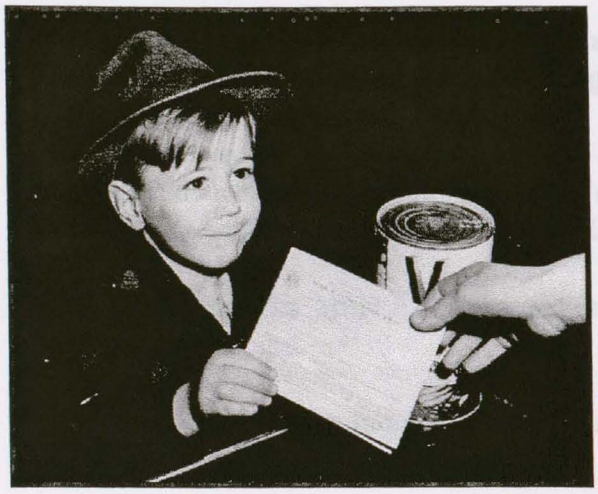
By the summer of 1942, the Japanese expansion reached its peak with the Eastern boundary of the Japanese Empire running from the Aleutians in the North Pacific down past Wake Island in the Central Pacific to the Gilberts on the Equator. Its Western boundary ran from Manchuria through Eastern China and Burma to India. Its Southern border included Sumatra, Java, Timor, half of New Guinea, and all the Solomons.

This service record book was kept for Sam Boylston by his mother Lillie V. Boylston. Much of the contents of this book came from this record.

During 1942, the Japanese continued driving across the mountains of New Guinea toward Port Moresby on the Southern shore. At the same time, they were striving to build air bases in the Southern Solomons from which they could strike the Australian supply lines.

There was a rapid buildup by the U.S. in Australia under MacArthur in 1942. Despite the U.S. commitment to defeating Germany first, about four times more men and supplies were sent to the Pacific than to Europe in 1942.

When the U.S. learned that the Japanese were constructing and airfield on Guadalcanal, one of the southern most Solomon Islands, a major marine amphibious assault was launched by the U.S. on the island. Thus, eight months after the Pearl Harbor attack, the U.S. launched its first major offensive on August 7, 1942.



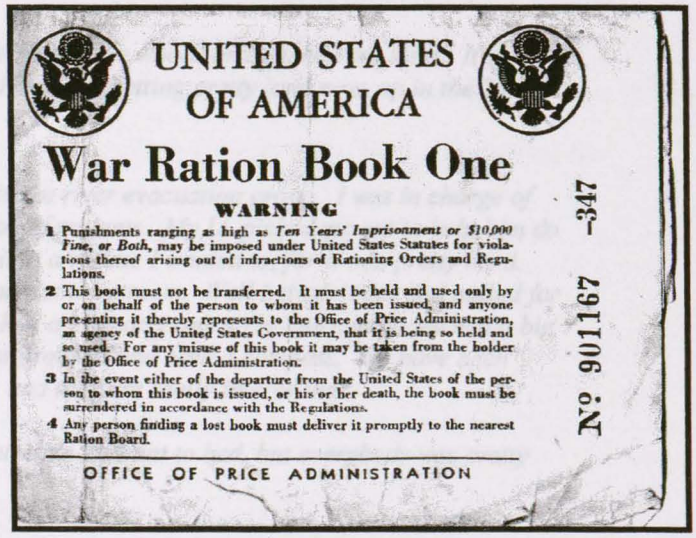
National Archives: Schoolboy Uses His First War Ration Book.

The initial landing on Guadalcanal was unopposed. However, before the campaign was over there would be six naval encounters and a bloody jungle fight lasting eight months. During the naval battle of nearby Savo Island on August 9, 1942, the Japanese had initial success, but withdrew.

In October, 1942, the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands was fought. In this naval battle, the Japanese lost two destroyers and had two destroyers and two aircraft carriers damaged. The U.S. lost the Hornet carrier. The next month a Japanese battleship was sunk and two cruisers damaged in the Battle of Iron Bottom Sound. In February, 1943, the Japanese evacuated the remaining troops from Guadalcanal by destroyers. This resulted in the first land defeat of the Japanese in WWII.

Following the U.S. Guadalcanal victory, MacArthur went on the offensive in New Guinea. Over a ten month period he pushed the Japanese from the Island. This thrust was the left giant pincer movement in The Pacific to isolate Rabaul, Japan's Gibraltar of the South Pacific.

The 5th Army Air Force was active in early March, 1943 when they smashed a Japanese convoy in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

War Ration Book One

WARNING

1 Punishments ranging as high as *Ten Years' Imprisonment or $10,000 Fine, or Both*, may be imposed under United States Statutes for violations thereof arising out of infractions of Rationing Orders and Regulations.

2 This book must not be transferred. It must be held and used only by or on behalf of the person to whom it has been issued, and anyone presenting it thereby represents to the Office of Price Administration, an agency of the United States Government, that it is being so held and so used. For any misuse of this book it may be taken from the holder by the Office of Price Administration.

3 In the event either of the departure from the United States of the person to whom this book is issued, or his or her death, the book must be surrendered in accordance with the Regulations.

4 Any person finding a lost book must deliver it promptly to the nearest Ration Board.

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

No. 901167 -347

Ray Boylston's War Ration Book issued on May 4, 1942.

By mid-summer of 1943, MacArthur had four U.S. divisions and six Australian divisions supported by Admiral William F. Halsey's South Pacific Fleet. Nimitz had nine U.S. Army and Marine divisions in the Central Pacific. With these forces, they moved up the Solomons and New Guinea and onward across the little known Gilberts, Marshalls, and Marianas.

By the end of 1943, MacArthur and Nimitz had perfected the novel island - hopping warfare in which Japanese strong points were outflanked and bypassed. Such tactics isolated thousands of Japanese far to the rear of the fighting front. Island after island, it

was the same. The Marines landed and conquered; the Sea-Bees built another air base; and the airplanes moved in and started striking nearby Japanese bases.

While MacArthur pressed along the Northern Coast of New Guinea, the Marines and Army were advancing up the Solomon Island chain including the Russell Islands, New Georgia, Vella Lavella, Choiseul, Treasury Islands, and Bougainville.

During this period, the Army Air Force and carrier-based planes pounded the Japanese strong point of Rabaul.

Sam continued his basic training at Camp Grant, IL in 1943. A letter he wrote home on June 28, 1943 is as follows:

Saturday, June 28, 1943

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I received your letters today and was glad to hear from you. I guess you have gotten my letter telling about the bivouac.

Well, we left last Thursday and marched to the woods and pitched out tents. It was pretty hot but everybody made it. Hikes are getting pretty long now, up in the 20 mile mark.

During the stay in the field, I was in the river evacuation group. I was in charge of loading, landing, and transportation of patients. My Lt. picked me out to help him do this work and told me I could quit it at any time I wanted to, for it was pretty hard. We had to pull floating rafts, etc. across the stream. Well I stuck it out and pulled for three days. It was lots of fun. We had a big party one night and everybody had a big time. One night we went on a night problem and used a compass. We have been having lots of map reading classes and they are really interesting.

The ground got pretty hard at night when we went to bed, but everybody was pretty tired, so we slept, and slept good.

I'm glad to know everything is fine at home. Might be coming home sometime soon. Anyway, I hope so.

Tell everybody hello, and write soon.

Your loving son,

Lionel

During this period everything was going okay on the Home Front. By June, 1943, I had completed my freshman year at Graniteville High School. Overall, things went pretty good. It was a year of adjustment for me. We were well aware of the war. Each family member was provided a War Ration Book containing War Ration Stamps for purchasing food and other rationed goods. These books were issued by the U.S. Office of Price Administration.

Meat and sugar were some of the main food products rationed. Gasoline and tires were also rationed. This did not bother us since we did not own a car and used the buses for transportation.

At high school, I belonged to the Victory Corps and wore a uniform one day each week. We drilled and used dummy wooden rifles. This training later helped me when I was drafted during the Korean War.

Just about every day, Army convoys were streaming past our house on U.S. No.1. I learned to recognize most of the vehicles. I especially liked to see the tanks and half-tracks.

Each day we read about the war in the newspaper, heard about it over the radio and saw pictures in newsreels at the movies on Saturday night. We also discussed the war during classes at school.

One constant reminder of the war was the small flag with a large blue star hanging in our front window. Those families having family members in service hung the flags in their windows. If someone was killed in the war, the blue star was changed to a gold star. Thank goodness we never had to change our blue star to gold.

Sam was completing his basic training at Camp Grant, IL in July, 1943. He wrote the following letter home on July 9, 1943.

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Well, things are fine up here and we are finishing up, probably be about two more weeks. Then they ship us out to goodness knows where.

I went out to a farm with a crowd of soldiers to help gather peas. They paid us $7.00 for about 10 hours work. That was $7.00 a person.

Well, we are still going to classes, hikes, and in a few minutes I will be going to exercises.

Lots of my friends have already been shipped. I heard from one boy, he is in San Francisco. He is going to X-ray school.

The food is fine and the nights are cool. The Army is O. K. and I'm really having a swell time. The training gets kinda rough at times, but I keep plugging.

Well, that's all for now. Maybe I'll write tomorrow or the next day. I haven't heard from you this week.

My company was the best dressed in the battalion. I went before the Major and he made us Color Company.

Love to all,
Lionel

SAM BOYLSTON'S DRAFT NOTICE

SYMBOLS

TDN - The travel directed is necessary in the Military Service
TOMT - The Transportation Officer will furnish the necessary transportation

ARMED FORCES INDUCTION STATION
Ft. Jackson, S. C.

S. # 35 April 14, 1943

E X T R A C T

6. Each of the following named white enlisted men, inducted into the AUS this date, is released from active duty this date, is transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corps, and will proceed to Local Board # 63, Orangeburg, S.C.

Act.Cpl.	Bolin,Wyman(NMN)	34652925	Pvt.	Bolton,Cecil(NMN)	34652926
"	Boylston,Samuel L.	34652927	"	Browning,Jr.,Walter K.	34652929
"	Myers,Everette J.	34652928	"	Williams,Cecil B.	34652931
"	Livingston,Joel T.	34652978	"	Sutcliffe,Jr.,Joseph B.	34652982
"	Pickering,James H.	CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR			34652980
"	Chavis,James R.	34652979	"	Fields,John A. T.	34652981
"	Bolin,David(NMN)	34653032	"	Webster,James F.	34653030
"	Phillips,Laurie W.	34653029	"	Lane,Jr.,Johnnie M.	34653028
"	Kennerly,Jr.,Cadiz C.	34653031	"	Strock,Harold(NMN)	34653053
"	Smoak,Jr.,Carey M.	34653054	"	Boone,James L.	34653056
"	Davis,Wardlaw(NMN)	LIMITED SERVICE			34653063
"	Stokes,William F.	34653055	"	Myers,McKenley(NMN)	34653074
"	Smoak,Robert C.	34653076			

Effective April 21, 1943, each of the above named enlisted men, of the Enlisted Reserve Corps, is called to active duty and WP from Local Board # 63, Orangeburg, S. C. to Reception Center, Ft. Jackson, S. C., reporting to the CO thereat for duty. TDN. TOMT. FD 31 P 431-02 A 0425-23.

By O of Capt. GRISSOM:
OTTO D. DOEHLER,
Capt. QMC.,
Adj.

OFFICIAL: Otto D. Doehler
OTTO D. DOEHLER,
Capt. QMC.,
Adj.

Report to Local Board, April 21, 1943, at 9:00 A.M.

APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OR ASSISTANT LEADER

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SELECTIVE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

To Whom It May Concern:

Special confidence being placed in the integrity and ability of

SAMUEL LICNEL BOYLSTON

he is hereby appointed { ~~leader~~ / assistant leader } of a contingent of selected men from Local Board No. 63 of Orangeburg County, in the State of South Carolina

He is, therefore, charged with the enforcement of the Selective Service Regulations governing selected men enroute to Induction Stations during the journey from Orangeburg, South Carolina to Fort Jackson, South Carolina and all men included within the contingent are directed to obey his lawful orders during the journey.

By Order of the Director of Selective Service

Date April 13, 1943

Hubert L. Haney
Clerk Chairman of Local Board.

D. S. S. Form 158

16—18347

INSTRUCTIONS TO LEADER OR ASSISTANT LEADER

Leaders and assistant leaders shall have such authority as is necessary to deliver the group to the Induction Station.

Transportation, meal, and lodging tickets of the party will be kept in your personal possession.

Accompany the transportation agent through the train (or bus), identifying the men of your party, and deliver the transportation tickets to the transportation agent. Should there be any difference between the number of men covered by any ticket and the number of men in the party, indorse on the face of the ticket the actual number of men for whom transportation is furnished and sign said indorsement.

Make the necessary arrangements at eating places, identifying the members of your party, and give to the person supplying your meals the proper voucher for the number of meals supplied.

No arrangements will be made for lodging unless specific directions for lodging are given by the Local Board.

Make frequent inspections of the railroad cars (or busses) and list and report to the Commanding Officer at the Induction Station any damage which may be done to the transportation equipment or any other property, specifying the name or names of the member or members of the party responsible for such damage.

You are responsible for the safe arrival and good conduct of your party. In case of necessity telegraph to a station ahead for such police assistance as may be needed. In case of accident, protracted delay, or other incident requiring instructions inform this Local Board by telegram and request instructions.

No member of the party shall be permitted to leave the vicinity of the train (or bus) without permission from the leader. Just prior to arrival at the Induction Station, inspect the party to see that all members are present and ready to leave the train.

Upon arrival at the Induction Station, keep the members of the party together in one compact group and report to the officer or noncommissioned officer in charge of the Induction Station. You are responsible for the safekeeping of the papers of your party and for delivery of these papers to the officer or noncommissioned officer in charge of the Induction Station.

Registrants are required by law to obey the orders of their leaders and assistant leaders in all matters concerning the journey to the Induction Stations.

Refusal to obey lawful instructions, directions, and orders is punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—15347

GOING OVERSEAS

In August, 1943, Sam was shipped out to a base in California. He had a long train ride through the U.S. While on the trip he wrote the following letter.

August 5, 1943

Dear Mother and Daddy,

We are now leaving Colorado and heading South into New Mexico. Seeing plenty of prairie land, sage brush and lots of beautiful snowcapped mountains.

Still having a swell time. We will have breakfast in Las Vegas. This is really a swell train trip and there's no time like you have on a troop train.

California, here I come. I will be stationed near Frisco. I'll swim in the ocean (Pacific).

Love,
Lionel

Once Sam arrived at Camp Stoneman, near San Francisco, California, he became dissatisfied with waiting. His letter of August 10, 1943 clearly describes his frustration.

Dear Daddy and Mother,

Well I haven't heard from you in over 2 weeks now. I think the mail got messed up some kind of way. I'm going up to headquarters tomorrow and find out something.

This is the poorest excuse for a camp, of anything I've ever seen. If I stay around this place long, I'll be like a billy! We go out and these new Lt.'s from O.C.S. stand up and practice talking and speaking. It's really the dullest thing, I've ever witnessed. We go out, they talk for 15 minutes and we rest for 45 minutes. At this rate we will never get in shape for overseas duty. This afternoon we played baseball and had a pretty good time.

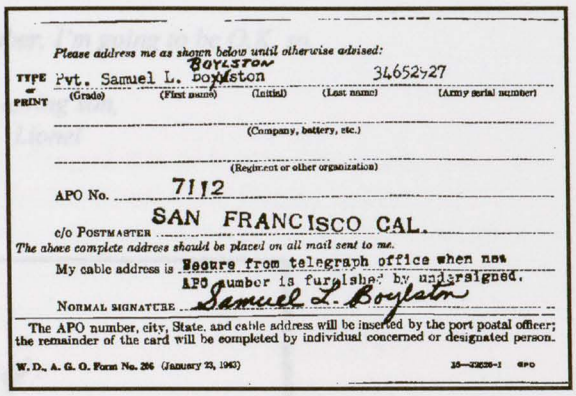
We are in with a bunch of infantry men and they are really helping me learn things about the M-1 rifle.

We don't know how long we'll stay here and we are still unsigned to an outfit.

Weather is fine. It hasn't rained since last April and it doesn't look as if it will rain until next April. Write soon..

Love to all,
Lionel

Sam's first cartoon envelope that I have was mailed with a letter to his friend, Roy Smith, from Camp Stoneman, California on August 13, 1943. Roy Smith lived with us in Stieffeltown while he worked for Graniteville Company. The letter which was in the envelope was lost.



Please address me as shown below until otherwise advised:

TYPE OR PRINT Pvt. Samuel L. Boylston (Boylston) 34652527
(Grade) (First name) (Initial) (Last name) (Army serial number)

(Company, battery, etc.)

(Regiment or other organization)

APO No. 7112

c/o POSTMASTER SAN FRANCISCO CAL.

The above complete address should be placed on all mail sent to me.

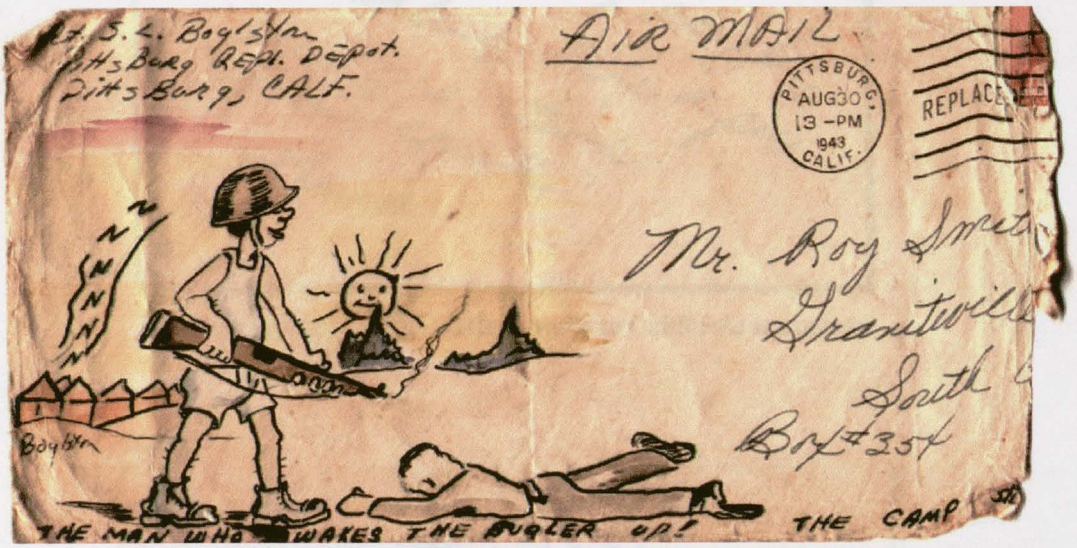
My cable address is Secure from telegraph office when new APO number is furnished by undersigned.

NORMAL SIGNATURE Samuel L. Boylston

The APO number, city, State, and cable address will be inserted by the port postal officer; the remainder of the card will be completed by individual concerned or designated person.

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 206 (January 23, 1943) 25—32636-1 GPO

Sam Boylston's new mailing address



By the end of August, 1943, Sam was about to leave for the South Pacific. By then, he had become more adjusted to Camp Stoneman. This was his last letter from California before sailing for the South Pacific.

August 28.1943

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Well, I've received your letters today, also one from Roy and Al.

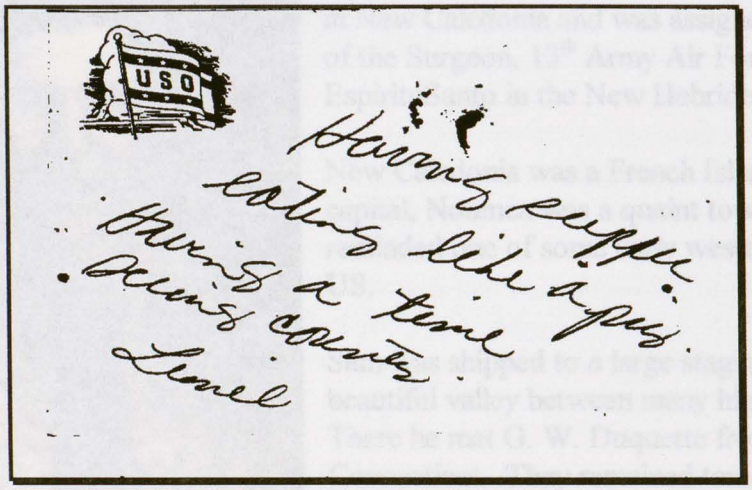
Today we packed our barracks once again and we are ready to pull out. As we all figured and heard. We leave once again in the morning for Stoneman. How long we shall be there, we don't know, but that's the P.O.E. They usually get a finally check and physical. Also a few more things given out and taken back.

Don't worry about me for I shall be all right. I won't go into combat right away, maybe a year, but we are going where we can get jungle training.

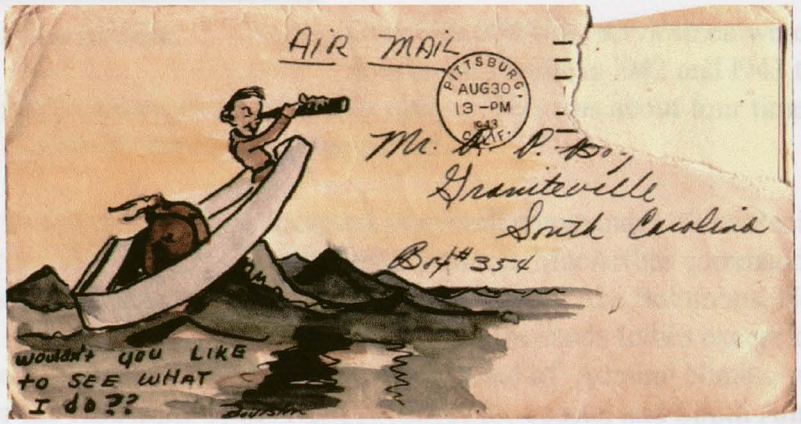
I've had a pretty good time since I've been here. I've seen lots of things and I really enjoyed it. This camp wasn't so bad after I got use to it. I wouldn't mind being stationed here a while.

Well, no news so guess I'll have to close, but remember, I'm going to be O.K. so don't worry about me.

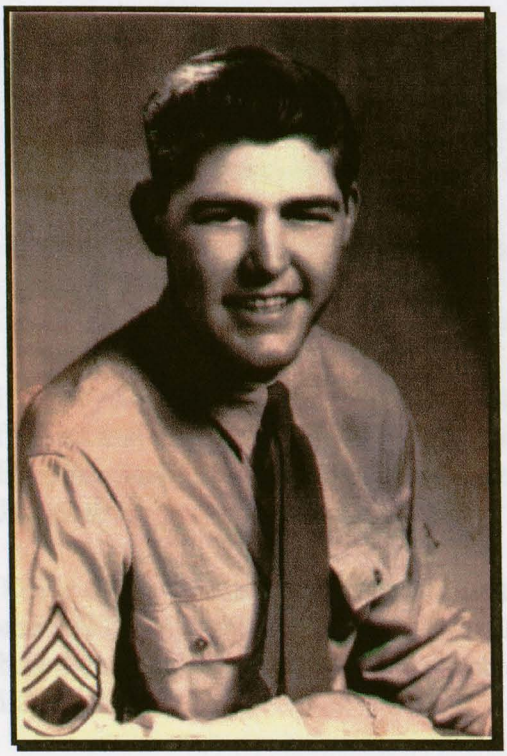
Your loving son,
Lionel



Post card written by Sam while in route to California in August, 1943



NEW CALEDONIA & ESPIRTU SANTO



Sgt. Sam Boylston

Sam finally shipped out of Camp Stoneman, California for the Southwest Pacific in late August, 1943. After a long sea voyage he arrived in New Caledonia and was assigned to the Office of the Surgeon, 13th Army Air Force, EspirituSanto in the New Hebrides Islands.

New Caledonia was a French Island and the capital, Noumea was a quaint town which reminded one of some early western towns in the US.

Sam was shipped to a large staging area in a beautiful valley between many high mountains. There he met G. W. Duquette from Westport, Connecticut. They remained tent mates during the war and came home together. He drew Duke's birthday cards, anniversary cards and many cartooned envelopes for his wife, Lillian.

Over 300,000 U.S. servicemen were sent to the Southwest Pacific in 1942 and 1943 to guard Australia and its communication and supply routes. This was about four times the number of troops sent to Europe during this same period.

Because MacArthur would not be accepted as overall commander of the Pacific, especially by the Navy, the Pacific was divided into two theaters. MacArthur commanded the Southwest Pacific Area including Australia, the Philippines, the Solomons, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Borneo, and all of the Netherlands Indies except the large island of Sumatra. The U.S. Navy under the command of Admiral Nimitz, was responsible for the remainder of the Pacific, except for coastal and South America. Nimitz commanded the North and Central Pacific directly, while he placed Admiral Ghormley in command of the South Pacific Areas.

Early in the Pacific War it was realized by the Navy that their previous plans to build their strength around battleships was not the best approach. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor clearly demonstrated the strength and importance of aircraft carriers. Thus, the Navy's battle fleet with battleships, which for over thirty years had been the center of Navy planning, quickly disappeared. It was replaced by a new weapon: The Carrier Task Force. It was obvious that the battleships were not fast enough to keep up with the fast aircraft carriers. Both the Japanese and American navies quickly realized the importance of sea borne aircraft in winning control of the Pacific.

As early as February, 1942, Admiral Halsey's Carrier Task Force 16 raided Wake Island. Also, Admiral Brown's Carrier Task Force 11 raided Rabaul on the island of New Britain, off New Guinea. All this occurred before Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle's B-25 raid on Tokyo.

Initially, MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Army Air Forces were commanded by Lt. General George Brett. At that time, Brett had only 500 aircraft, of which only 200 were operational. With these few aircraft he concentrated his efforts on raiding Rabaul and patrols of the Solomon Sea and the Northeast coast of Australia.

In 1942, the U.S. began driving from bases in the New Hebrides through the Solomon Islands and along the New Guinea coast to the Bismarck Archipelago. The Battle of Guadalcanal was a major part of this offensive in the Solomon Islands.

By mid-August, 1942, the Marines on Guadalcanal had completed the airfield and U.S. fighters and dive bombers were using the strip. Also, Army Air Force B-17's from Espirites Santo were joining in on the attack of Japanese convoys attempting to supply Japanese troops on Guadalcanal.

Thirty days was estimated as about the maximum time a flyer could spend on Guadalcanal and still be physically and psychologically fit to fly. Of the original dive-bomber pilots based on Guadalcanal, only one was able to walk to the plane eventually taking him off the island.

During the first year of the war in the Pacific, it became obvious that large Army Air Force bombers such as the B-17's were ineffective against enemy ships at sea. The use of B-17's in the Battle of Midway proved this point.

MacArthur's 5th Army Air Force experienced similar problems in the Southwest Pacific. However, in August, 1942 MacArthur received a new air commander, General George C. Kenney. When he arrived, he found a dispirited and disillusioned air organization. Kenney quickly overhauled the organization into an effective fighting force. Many general officers, Colonels, and Majors were reassigned. They were replaced by aggressive, smart flyers like Ennis C Whitehead and Kenneth Walker.

At one meeting between MacArthur's, Chief of Staff, General Sutherland and Air Force General Kenney, Kenney placed a small dot on a blank piece of paper and said to Army Gen. Sutherland that the large blank area of the paper represented what he (Kenney) knew about air matters and the small dot represented what you (Sutherland) know. From then on he and the Southwest Pacific Army Air Force had little trouble from MacArthur's Chief of Staff about Air Force matters.

General Kenney was one of a few close-knit army aviators who fought in WWI and supported Brigadier General Billy Mitchell's proposals. Kenney was picked by MacArthur over General Doolittle to head his Air Force. He was an outspoken, scrappy,

and confident General, unawed by Mac Arthur or his chief of staff. Kenney was aggressive, determined, innovative and imaginative.

General Kenney learned quickly that one of the reasons Army aircraft were not striking enemy ships, was they attacked too high. He began immediately to experiment with low-level attacks against enemy ships. He modified the B-25 and A-20 medium bombers to carry eight forward-firing machine guns, six one-hundred-pound bombs, and sixty small fragmentation bombs with delayed action fuses.

By the beginning of l943, Kenney's 13th Air Force B-25 and A-20 attack bombers became the most deadly weapon MacArthur possessed against Japanese naval vessels. One Japanese convoy learned the hard way about Kenney's deadly attack bombers when they entered the Dampier Straight between New Guinea and New Britain. As they came within range of Kenney's Army Air Force planes, about l00 planes, including 30 modified B-25's attacked at sea level skimming across the water. The planes came in so low and straight that the Japanese thought they were torpedo planes. The U.S. planes rained death on the crowded decks of the Japanese ships. By the end of the day, all 8 enemy transports and 4 destroyers were sunk or were sinking. About 3,000 Japanese troops were lost.

Kenney's Army Air Force bombers had finally achieved what General Billy Mitchell had predicted fifteen years before. They had destroyed an enemy fleet at sea unaided by U.S. naval surface ships. It had required sixteen months of war experience, deadly bought air bases, specifically designed equipment, painstaking training, good intelligence and good weather to accomplish the Air Force victory. Regardless, the principle was established. Air power had become the clearly dominant element in the Southwest Pacific, but it required airfields painfully wrestled away from the Japanese. Thus, the Japanese were gradually losing their ability to control the air against the Allies.

The U.S. had the ability to produce more combat planes, build air bases faster and more efficiently, and the American planes and pilots were getting much better. By the end of the Guadalcanal campaign, a new twin-engine U.S. fighter, the P-38 Lightning, made its appearance. It possessed great range, heavy armament, and high speed. The P-38 couldn't beat the Japanese Zero in a dogfight so it avoided dogfights with Zeros. It stuck to long range patrols at high altitudes, where they used their superior diving speed to attack lower-flying Japanese fighters. Later the U.S. introduced the Cance-Vought F4U Corsair which was the fastest fighter in the Pacific.

While the US had only 300 pilots in 1939, by the end of 1942 there were 50,000. Also, with only 2000 planes in 1939, about 4000 new planes were produced each month by the end of 1942.

Sam Boylston sent the following poem from New Caledonia soon after his arrival in the South Pacific.

"SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC"

Somewhere in the South Pacific, where the sun is like a curse,
Where each long day is followed by another slightly worse,
Where the coral dust blows thicker than the shifting desert sands,
Where the white man dreams of a finer and slightly colder land.

Somewhere in the South Pacific, where is woman is never seen,
Where the sky is never cloudy and the grass is never green.
Where the gooney birds fuss nightly, robbing man of blessed sleep,
Where there isn't any whiskey, and but two cans of beer a week.

Somewhere in the South Pacific, where the sun bakes the ground,
Where ice water is a failure and your skin is slightly brown,
Where you get so tired of eating dehydrated food each day,
Where work is considered a pleasure to pass the time away.

Somewhere in the South Pacific where mosquitoes own the place,
Where the sweat from your brow trickles rapidly down your face,
Where your days are already numbered and your head points to the ground,
And you know that you have headed for the "Last go round".

Somewhere in the South Pacific where the mail is always late,
Where Christmas cards in April are considered up to date.
Where we always have the payroll, but we never get a cent,
Though we never miss the money, for there is no place to get it spent.

Somewhere in the South Pacific, where they say the "trade winds" blow,
Where your thoughts are always drifting to the "one you use to know",
Where the moon shines nightly and the stars twinkle in the sky,
Where you wish that you could gladly, stop the tears that fill your eye.

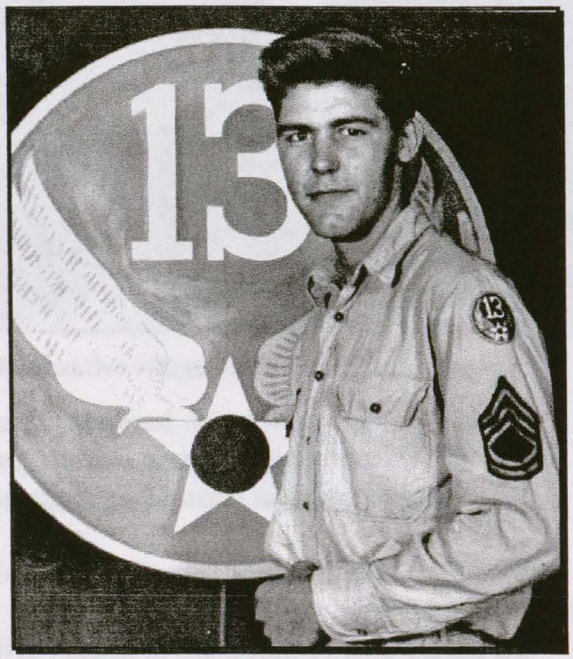
Somewhere in the South Pacific, where a battle has been won,
Where the stars and stripes forever will be standing from sun to sun,
Where you talk about the future, planning things that you will do,
And then you stop and wonder when will those plans come true.

Somewhere in the Southern Ocean, where the sea birds moan and cry,
And the lumbering deep sea turtles come upon the shore to die,
Oh, take me back to the United States, the place I love so well,
for the God-forsaken place we are in, is awfully close to hell.

Author Unknown

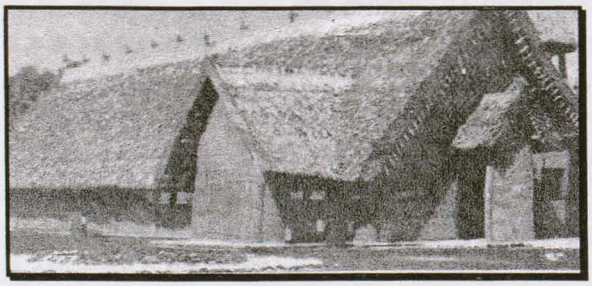
13TH ARMY AIR FORCE

The 13th Army Air Force, which Sam Boylston was assigned in August, 1943, was formed in January, 1943. However, its origins reached back to the very beginning of the war in the Pacific. Some units that later became part of the 13th were dispatched to the Pacific in early 1942 to guard Australia from the Japanese onslaught.



Sam Boylston photograph taken on assignment to the 13th Army Air Force in the South Pacific.

Prior to the U.S. preparations for the Lower Solomon campaign, the Army Air Force assigned two medium bomber and three fighter squadrons to the South Pacific to defend the supply lines to Australia. The 70th Fighter Squadron arrived in the Fiji Islands in January, 1942 and the 67th Fighter Squadron reached New Caledonia two months later. The 68th Fighter Group did not arrive in Tongatabu until May, after spending two months in Australia. During July, 1942, the 11th bomber group from Hawaii arrived in the South Pacific.



13th AAF Beacon: South Pacific island natives built this chapel near the 13th AAF base on Espiritu Santo

By the time of the Guadalcanal campaign, the Army Air Force had only one heavy bomber group, two medium bomber groups, and three fighter squadrons in the entire South Pacific. Because of limited facilities at forward bases at Epate and Espiritu Santo, most aircraft were dispersed on fields in New Caledonia and in the Fiji Islands. Daily search missions were flown from all bases.

To centralize control of the diverse and scattered Army Air Force units throughout the South Pacific, the War Department authorized the establishment of the 13th Army Air Force in January, 1943. Headquarters was immediately established at Espiritu Santo. Army Air Force units assigned to form the 13th included: the 5th and 11th bomber groups, the 69th and 70th bomber groups, the 347th fighter group, the 12th and, 44th fighter groups, and the 13th troop carrier squadron.

All air operations in the South Pacific were placed under Admiral Ghormley's Command, known as COMAIRSOPAC. The 13th Air Force was known as COMAIRSOLS for Commander Air Solomons. Initially, the 13th was the air assault and supporting Air Force for Navy and Marine air units, and for ground forces. After transfer to the Southwest Pacific, the 13th came into its own and exercised operational control over its fighter and bomber squadrons. In the beginning, its role was to support the 5th Air Force as the 6th Army drove up the New Guinea coast through Morotai and into Leyte.

Island native village on Espiritu Santo.

The 13th Army Air Force was known as the "Jungle Air Force" since it did not fight from centralized air bases closely tied together, but from remote island bases spread hundreds of miles apart. Its units were spread over forty-five islands in the South Pacific during the war. Units of the 13th moved from the Fijis and Australia through New Caledonia and the New Hebrides up the Solomons ladder to the Admiralties and the Netherlands Indies, and finally through the Philippines. They traveled approximately 7,000 miles and operated over an area of at least 4 million square miles.

In an attempt to check the erosion of Japanese air superiority in the South Pacific, Admiral Yamamoto launched a series of mass surprise air raids on U.S. airfields in New Guinea and Guadalcanal in early 1943. These massive air raids achieved very little. However, Yamamoto was led to believe the raids were very successful and he decided to visit the Japanese flyers in southern Bougainville to congratulate them. Since the Americans had broken the Japanese secret code, they learned Yamamoto's plans. One the morning of April 18, 1943, Yamamoto's plane, escorted by nine zeros, was attacked by eighteen 13th AAF P-38 Lightnings waiting in ambush as his plane approached Kahili near Buin in southern Bougainville.

There was a brief encounter with the zeros, before the P-38's headed for Yamamoto's plane and a second plane carrying his chief of staff. The American flight leader, Captain Thomas G. Lamphier, Jr., fired a burst with his 20-mm cannon. Yamamoto's plane burst into flames and plunged into the jungle. On June 5, 1943, the Admiral's ashes were interred in Tokyo in an impressive state funeral.

By August 5, 1943, General Griswald captured Munda's airfield. Also, MacArthur's engineers rapidly and secretly built a fighter strip at the Tsli Tsli in a grassy inland valley west of Lae and Salamaua in northern New Guinea. This strip was used by 13th Air Force fighters to escort Allied bombers on raids against Japanese.

The Japanese base at Rabaul was routinely attacked by the 13th and 5th Air Forces in an effort to gain control of the air over New Britain. The Japanese countered with their fighters. This resulted in a series of air battles often involving hundreds of planes, similar to those air battles over Europe.

One 13th Air Force B-24 bomber, called "The Blessed Event", on a mission to Rabaul during this period was hit by shells from Japanese fighters. The bomber's engine controls were knocked out and the instrument panel smashed. The pilot, copilot, bombardier, and nose gunner were wounded, but the Blessed Event pushed on to strike Rabaul despite further hits which killed the navigator and wounded the top turret gunner who nevertheless continued firing his machine guns. At least three Japanese fighters were shot down by the bomber's gunmen. The Blessed Event headed home with one rudder missing and streams of gasoline pouring from over 120 bullet and shell holes in the wings and fuselage. Guided by its wounded pilot, the B-24 collided with an American fighter while making an emergency landing and lost one of its wheels, but still managed to glide to safety on its belly. One crewman had been killed, another was dying, and eight others were wounded.

In early 1943, MacArthur launched a 580-mile leap to Hollandia on the north coast of Netherlands New Guinea isolating about 40,000 Japanese troops along the New Guinea coast. The Americans achieved complete surprise at Hollandia and Aitape. By the end of April, all three airfields near Lake Santani were in American hands, as was the airstrip near Aitape. The seizure of Hollandia provided heavy-bomber bases to support the drive toward the Philippines, as well as, support for Nimitz's operations in the Mariannas and Palaus.

After the Hollandia campaign, Japanese airfields to the west near the town of Sarmi on the coastal island of Wakde were captured. From those fields, the first aerial reconnaissance of the southern Philippines began.

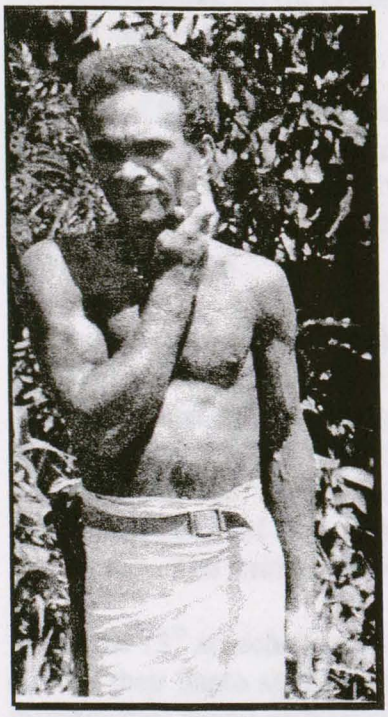
Those Americans on the home front suffered little during the war as compared to those in Europe. However, it was from this secure homeland that there came a flood of guns, planes, tanks, ships, food, and other needed military supplies which, ultimately determined victory. This homeland also provided one of the greatest citizen armies ever formed. It fought on two fronts at a great cost in blood. Almost every American family was affected by the war; thus, the home front was not as far from the war as it seemed.

Urgent need for war materials for the Allies resulted in many shortages in consumer goods. This caused a shortage of items such as meat, butter, sugar, fats, oils, coffee, canned foods, shoes, and gasoline. These and other similar items were rationed.

Men's trousers went cuffless to save cloth and old toothpaste tubes had to be turned in when buying a new tube. Also, there were tin can collections, waste paper collections, scrap iron drives, aluminum drives, and housewives salvaged grease from cooking.

Manufacturers reminded their future customers in ads that they were doing their part in the war effort by converting their industries to war production. Auto makers made tanks, typewriter manufacturers made armor- piercing shells, etc.

Sam Boylston's first exposure to combat during a Japanese air raid was on Espiritu Santo, his first 13th Air Force base. Espiritu Santo is in the New Hebrides Islands. A Portuguese explorer, Pedro Fernandez de Quiros sighted and named the island of Espiritu Santo in 1606. Captain Cook gave the Celtic title "New Hebrides" to the entire group of islands in 1774. The island of Espiritu Santo was selected by the Americans because it had a deep water harbor near the Solomons. Within a few months the tropical island was developed into a major American base. Hundreds of ships moved tons of cargo through the harbor. Naval warships, damaged in action, found refuge in the Channel where great floating dry docks were anchored. While at Espiritu Santo, Sam experienced a big earthquake.



13th AAF Daily Beacon: Espiritu Santo native shows how he shaves with a sharp stone.

The headquarters of the 13th Air Force was established on Espiritu Santo in a coconut grove, located above the Navy signal tower. The grove was a breeding ground for flies. The insects hatched out of the debris of rotting coconuts. Eating in the open was an ordeal, for flies were always present. Eventually, the problem was solved by screening the mess halls, keeping the jungle cleared and by improved sanitation.

Dengue fever swept the island in 1943 and almost half the Americans stationed there contacted the disease. Malaria control measures were soon taken seriously. Beds were covered at night with mosquito netting, insect repellent was routinely used, and the men wore long sleeved shirts at the outdoor movies. Soon it was learned that swimming in the rivers would lead to ear fungus infections.

The 13th Air Force learned how to live in the jungle at Espiritu Santo. Tents were arranged to catch the very slight breezes and were placed under the shade of coconut trees. Also, office buildings were often placed in the shade of trees where possible. However, nothing could be done to lessen the oppressive and constant high humidity.

The men of the 13th soon learned that the Navy was the source of many luxury items such as mattresses, pillows, sheets, and T-shirts. Many Airmen were on the docks when the ships arrived.

Pekoa airstrip on Espiritu Santo opened about the same time the 13th Air Force was activated. Pekoa is a native word for second (bomber base no. 2). The first bomber base was built in 1942 just before the Japanese started building their airstrip on Guadalcanal later known as Henderson Field. Planes from the strip struck the Japanese on Guadalcanal. However, Pekoa was more closely associated with the 13th Air Force.

13th AAF Daily Beacon ; Espiritu Santo native fisherman.

Espiritu Santo had some fond memories for Sam. His office was a Quonset hut erected on coconut tree pilings. One day an earthquake almost shook the hut down the hill. Desks and chairs turned over. Lights swung and broke on the ceiling and everyone ran outside until it was over.

Another of Sam's remembrances of Espiritu was the mass migration of land crabs during certain times of the year. Sam would catch a few and put them in his tent mates bed. Later when they went to bed they would let loose a loud yell and hit the floor cursing Sam.

On another occasion at Espiritu Santo, Sam attended a special ceremony for a native chief who had served as a scout for the Marines on Guadalcanal. The chief was sitting on a large straw mat and had a long tooth wooden comb which he used to flip his hair out. His hair was so large it wouldn't fit in a large tub and he had put peroxide on the top which turned his hair red, orange and white. He ate teak leaves and had a long straw which he dipped in a bottle of lime. The leaves and lime formed some kind of narcotic and turned his lips red. The British and Americans gave him a medal for his service to the Allies.

When the 13th air echelons moved to Guadalcanal, the ground echelons continued to occupy their Santo sites until the summer of 1943. Sam Boylston remained with the headquarters group on Espiritu Santo until October 1943 when the headquarters was moved to Guadalcanal.

Pvt. S. L. Boylston
A.S.N. 34652927
H.Q.S 13th A.A.F.
A.P.O. 719 c/o
POSTMASTER
San Francisco, California

October 6, 1943

Dear Mother, Daddy and Jr.,

Well, how's things at home. Haven't heard from you in about a week but I guess letters are on the way.

It's been raining all night and all day. I guess you could classify it as a good day to stay inside. That's where I've been.

Did a little drawing this morning. I'm trying to get a few pictures as I go along. Some of the boys had me to draw their pictures and they sent them home. Maybe you can get me an art pad and send it to me.

It would be nice to have a collection after the war is over, you know fellows you've met and places you've been.

Most all of my friends have gone except a few. They all got good places. Don't know where or when I'll be stationed.

I was at another classification and I tried to work in my art some way. They said nothing was open. But, I know of a number of jobs I could do by painting but I guess they are filled. They had me classified as a clerk but I didn't want that so I'm doing something else now.

I got 8 out of 10 shots on the rifle range, which wasn't bad. The sergeant said that was pretty good.

I guess Junior is in school now, so make him study and know what he has been over.

Write soon. It was something I wanted , but I can't think of it now.
So, write soon.

Your loving son,
Lionel

October 17, 1943

Dear Daddy and Mother,

I received your letter today, so glad to hear from you. Also heard from Mama and Aunt Sara.

Still don't know about Leon and Buddy, what they are doing, etc. Aunt Sara said Phil Corker is in the Air Corps. Went to Jackson with Buddy.

I like my new place fine and met lots of swell guys. All, old army men.

Tell Roy and Junior I said hello and I'll write them when I get a chance.

Certainly would like to see a god "ole" State paper.

I'm fine and very satisfied.

Always love,

V-MAIL *Lionel*

10/30/43

Dear Folks,

I'm off for today and I can do what I want to. Think maybe I shall wash some clothes.

I received Daddy's letter and the picture. Thanks a million, it certainly was swell of him to send it.

I also got some letters from the boys at school. Sure was good to get some school news for a change.

By the way, did the annual ever come out? They were still having trouble getting the material I heard.

Still waiting to hear about Roy and the Army. What did H. T. Boland ever do?

Junior hasn't written as yet and if he wants me to bring him something back, he had better get started.

That's all.

Your Loving Son,
Lionel

November 5, 1943

My dear Brother,

I was so glad to receive your letter and hear how things are doing at home. You should write me more often for I really enjoy your little letter. It would also be practice for you in letter writing.

I'm glad you like Biology and doing fine. It's a funny thing, I always liked it. I guess it was because of the drawing we had to do. You keep on studying and learn to spell for I made that mistake once.

Things are about the same out here and there is very little change from day to day. They always find plenty for us to do. Tomorrow is my day off and I'm going on a

little trip in the jungle to get some bananas or whatever I might find. One of my tent mates is going with me. He's been here quite a while so I don't think we shall get lost.

I guess we will go to a show tonight for I hear its a real good one. So keep on studying and help Mother all you can. Drop me a line when you have time.

Your brother,
Lionel

November 9,1943

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I received a letter from Daddy today and also a couple from Buddy and the boys. I was so glad to hear that we beat Clemson. I guess I would have given anything to have seen that game.

You said something about my not writing a long letter, but I would write a longer one if I could think of something to say. It's a hard matter to say some of the things you would like to over here.

You also mentioned about me not writing so often, well I've really been busy lately and I haven't had time to do much writing to anyone. So if you don't hear from me as regular as it has been in the past you know I'm working. In fact, I've been working tonight and I guess I'll work tomorrow night until I get caught up.

I was down at the post office the other day and to my surprise I saw a pair of barrack bags that belonged to a friend of mine that took basic training with me. I looked him up and "sure nuff" it was him. It was quite a reunion for we had been together since we left Fort Jackson. He even slept right next to me. I guess he was just about as glad to see me as I was to see him. He didn't know anybody and boy was he surprised.

Well, our bananas are getting ripe and I guess we will be eating them pretty soon. It is really something to go out in the jungle and look for them and bring them back. Something you don't get a chance to do at home. I guess you learn something new every day.

I'm in a tent with some real swell boys. Some are from Massachusetts and the others from Ohio. We get quite a kick out of discussing the things that happen in the different sections of the country.

One boy next door is from Penn. And he has lots of books which we all read. It's like one big happy family and we have a swell time sitting around and talking after a days work is done. We have a tent fixed in a very convenient way. Built our shelves and tables for our various articles. Behind our tent we have a table fixed in the back yard; I guess you would call it that, and that's where we play checkers after supper. For myself, I'm getting to be quite a checker player. I give them some race every night.

Well, it's getting late and I guess I had better close or you won't be getting this letter on time. You and Daddy keep writing for I sure do look forward to getting your

letters. By the way, I heard from Hiram and it's sure he's at the place I just left. Wish I could have seen him. He's been over here since last summer.

Tell everybody hello for me. I haven't gotten that bulletin yet, Al was telling me about it. I guess they sent me one.

I certainly did enjoy Junior's letter. Tell him to write again some time.

Your loving son,
Lionel

V-MAIL

November 18, 1943

My dear Brother,

Well, today I received two letters from Mother and was certainly glad to hear from home. All letters are really appreciated over here.

I certainly enjoyed your two letters, I wish you would get in a writing mood more often. You have more time to write than I do so, what do you say. Every letter you write, I'll try to answer.

One gets awfully tired of doing the same thing day in and day out. I feel sorry for the fellows who have been here for the past two years. You can imagine how they feel. If there were only a small town of some kind or any small touch of civilization, I guess it would be better. The boys in Italy and North Africa really are getting a break and don't know it.

I guess we'll probably be hopping from island to island till this thing is over and by that time, you will have grown so much I won't know you. That certainly was a good picture Mama sent of you.

I saw a good picture last night, "Watch on the Rhine", with Betty Davis. That's where I spend my leisure hours in the evenings. I guess that's one thing to be proud of, for the boys in 1918 didn't have that.

I'm glad you are doing a little more studying this year than before. I hope you continue to do so, for you shall never regret it. Maybe when this is over we can go to school together, college, I mean. I'm going to finish that year and a half if its the last thing I do.

That's all for now.

Your brother,
Lionel

November 28, 1943

Dear Mother,

Today has passed and nothing unusual happened. The same old routine. I don't believe the picture was so bad tonight. I only saw part of it and walked out. I had seen it before but the boys talked me into going again. I usually sit through a picture again but not this. Must be bad!

I actually believe you were jealous because I wrote Daddy a letter and not you. Does it matter who I write as long as you hear from me. My letters are to all of you and there are no secrets.

I received a letter from Daddy this morning. It takes a little longer to get mail because of the Christmas rush but they come through just the same. Daddy must have been busy or something for he always writes seven or eight pages. News can't be getting that scarce.

Well, the boys are beginning to get their Xmas packages but I guess mine are coming soon. Ruby said Miss. Miriam had sent me a Christmas package. I haven't heard from Ed in quite a while, he's changed address again.

I'm very anxious to hear how Roy came out. I hope he got his commission back. Please let me know as soon as possible. I certainly wish him all my luck.

Been pretty hot lately, think I'll be going swimming next Saturday. A friend of mine is going with me. We will scout around the island a bit.

Well, again must close, I guess you have gotten my pictures and I hope all is fine. I'm still looking for those Xmas presents, I've heard so much about.

Love to all,
Your Son,
Lionel

American servicemen showed a marked decrease in efficiency after being in the tropics for more than 18 months. Apart from the strain of being in a combat zone, probably the greatest single factor was the climate. It was not the heat, but the humidity that accounted in a large measure for the debilitating effect. Often men had to spend time in the "sack" during lunch and after dinner before the movie, in order to regain their energy.

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met in Casablanca, Morocco in early 1943. They announced that the Allies would accept nothing less than unconditional surrender from the Axis, so during 1943, the War in Europe, though a long way from being over, was turning in favor of the Allies. The beginning of Germany's end was in sight. The Russian winter and pressure finally caused the Germans to surrender at Stalingrad on February 2, 1943. About five months later, Allied forces, fresh from their victory in North Africa, invaded Sicily. Not long thereafter, Italy was invaded. By early November, 1943, the Allies reached a line about 75 miles south of Rome, but could not pierce the strong German defense.

GUADALCANAL

Sam Boylston moved with the 13th Air Force headquarters from Espiritu Santo to Guadalcanal in October 1943. At that time there were still some Japanese troops hiding in the jungle and periodic fighting continued.

Beach located near the 13th AAF Base on Guadalcanal.

The mission of the 13th was to provide land based air power, in cooperation with Marine air units, with the Navy, and with the 5th AAF, in the island assaults. General Kenney quickly grasped the nature of the Pacific War and how air power should be used. He considered every Pacific island an airdrome for launching air attacks on the Japanese . The Air Force cleared the sky from enemy attack, wrecked the Japanese land bases, destroyed their supply system, and supported the ground forces.

The 13th Air Force 67th Fighter Squadron landed on Henderson Field only 15 days after the U.S. Marines hit Lunga Beach on Guadalcanal. They continued flying off the strip to support the troops throughout the campaign. The hulks of Japanese ships destroyed by 13th Air Force planes in the attack at Tassafaronga remained for many years as a monument to the brave pilots. While Sam Boylston was stationed on Guadalcanal he painted water colors of the beach and Japanese ships.

13th AAF Daily Beacon: Japanese ship sunk by the 13th AAF at Guadalcanal.

On Guadalcanal and many other South Pacific Islands during WWII, there were usually outside movies. About seven o'clock in the evening when dusk faded into darkness, men began to wander down the paths toward the movie area. They sat on anything available including logs, boxes, bomb crates, drums and wooden benches. The movies provided a chance to relax and escape the stress of being away from home and in combat. Along with food and mail, the movies were an indispensable aid to morale.

While on Guadalcanal, Sam experienced a number of Japanese air raids.

Sam and friend on Guadalcanal.

The first 13th Air Force units arrived at Munda in September, 1943. Munda had been taken by the Americans in June and was used as a

base to strike Rabaul, Torokina, Green Island and Truck in the Mandated Is

Somewhere in the South Pacific
April 22, 1944

Dear Mrs. Dobson,

Today, I received my Bulletin and I must write and thank you for it. They keep us pretty busy over here and there isn't too much time, but my letter to you is long overdue. I will try to write more often in the future.

Since my wonderful days at Graniteville Company, I have been a long way. Yes, I have traveled half way around the world. I have seen strange people, customs and lands into which white man had never gone until this started. It seems somewhat like a dream, for when I was in school I often wondered about the islands of the South Seas and the land "down under". I knew it only by books and pictures, but now I know what it is really like. Some of these islands are just as I had pictured them but others are just the opposite. They are uncivilized and few white men have been here before the war. I have been on three of the islands and even moved onto a very beautiful one. It seems I have done my share of moving since I have been in the Army. It hasn't all been without hardships but I have no come-back, for I have been very fortunate.

Over here we are like most Americans, for we realize what a wonderful country our U. S. A. is. We all talk of the folks back home and wonder what is going on. That's where the Bulletin comes in; it tells us who is doing our old job or where our buddies are. It is a very nice little magazine and really it tends to bring us closer with you back there. I have received all my copies and thanks very, very much.

My regards to all,
Sgt. S. L. Boylston

May 22, 1944

My dear Brother,

It has been quite a while since I have written you a letter so I will take the time this morning to drop you a few lines. I wrote you a short note a few days ago but will better myself now.

Nothing much has happened in the past few weeks and I have been sticking close to my little acres just doing the usual things. I will probably take a little trip tonight for one of my tent mates is in the hospital and I have to go see him.

We had some more snapshots taken and I will send them to you as soon as I get them. You will get a big laugh out of them for some of the boys put on grass skirts and native hats. We had one taken in our shorts and it was a scream also. All the pictures were good and are of the boys in my tent, just a bunch of pals , and when I send them home I want you to take good care of them.

I heard you are going fishing again soon and I bet you catch some this time. Does Uncle Wyatt let you paddle him or do you do all your fishing from the bank. Hearing you talk about fishing makes me kinda home sick for I do like to fish. I might go fishing this afternoon, providing I get a boat.

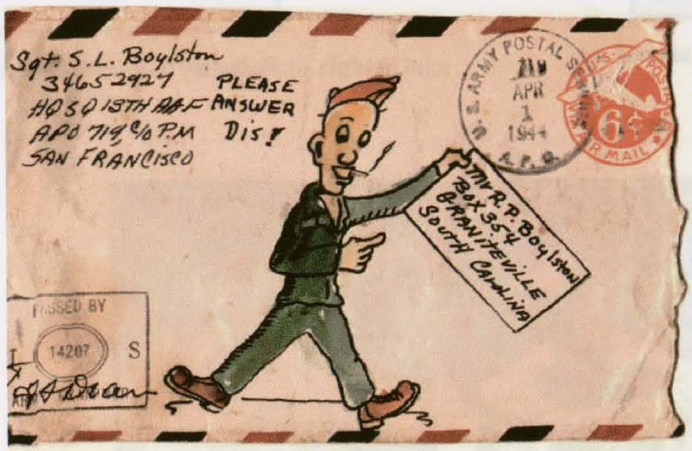
Well you have about one more week of school and it will be over for awhile, I guess you will spend part of your vacation in Springfield. I want to know how you come out on your subjects and if you are really making good grades or not. I won't give you the usual sermon, for you have heard that time and time again and by now you should realize what is expected of you. I don't want any half way report, I want a good one. You haven't got much more school (High School) years ahead of you and you should think about that.

I received quite a few letters from Mother and Daddy this week and it looks like the mail situation is beginning to clear up again. I still haven't received the present.

Well, when you get that vacation, have a big time for me and don't catch all the fish, for I want to catch a few when I return. The next year when school starts I want to hear that you are studying and doing good on your lessons.

That's all for now but I will write again soon.

Your Brother,
Lionel



Guadalcanal: Standing(left to right) Bish, Summerlin,Duquette,(seated) Sam and Nagy

Guadalcanal: Bish, Summerlin and Sam(left to right) Duke and Nagy

Guadalcanal: G. W. Duquette

Guadalcanal: Nagy, Summerlin and Duquette (left to right)

December 13, 1943

CHRISTMAS 1943

It was the night before Christmas, and all through the yard,
Not a creature was stirring - except the poor guard.
My stockings were stuck in my shoes to save space-
And, besides, my tent doesn't have a fireplace.
Had just settled down for a nice tropic snooze,
When out in the area there arose such a clatter,
That I sprang from my cot to see what was the matter.
I became so entangled in my mosquito net
That, if my friend hadn't helped me, I'd be struggling yet.
And then very cautiously I pulled back the flaps,
Half expecting to see a battalion of Japs.
Just imagine my amazement when I saw instead,
The famous St. Nicholas, in his suit of bright red.
He sat on his sled, which was pulled by six jeeps,
And they bounced along gaily in short bounds and leaps.
Then came to a halt, and away Santa went-
And then very suddenly he was there in my tent.
He was chuckling so merrily that his little fat belly,
Just like the other poem, was shaking like jelly.
And then I thought sure that this was a gag,
Then I noticed his to sack was a blue barracks bag.
But he reached in his bag , and without hesitation
Turned to my tent mate with a pack of "K" ration.
And then for me-lucky guy that I am-
He dug in again-and came up with Spam.
He followed this quickly with dehydrated potatoes,
And then produced a can of tomatoes.
Then he remarked that he had work to do,
He raised a plump finger, and upward he flew.
I dashed to the tent flap and was able to see
Him get in his sled as we waved back to me,
"Away Wyllis! On Ford!" was his cry in the night-
And in no time at all he was clear out of sight.
So it was with reluctance that I got back in bed
And thought of the things that St. Nicholas had said.
I'll still have a laugh when I'm ancient and old
At the thought of St. Nick sliding down a tent pole.
That's all there is to it-the story is through,
But before I sign off, here's my wish for you:

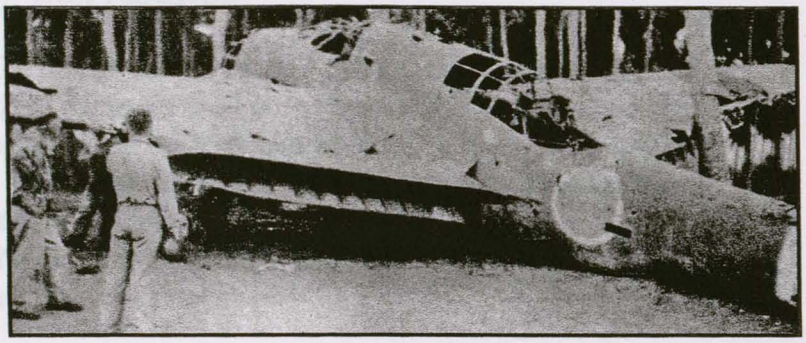
May your Christmas be merry and filled with good cheer,
May you be well and happy throughout the New Year.

Unknown

V-MAIL

Christmas card sent by Sam Boylston from South Pacific in 1943

In 1943, the Japanese airfield on southern Bougainville was a major enemy base with over 100 enemy aircraft. This base presented a serious threat to the U.S. forces on Guadalcanal and other American bases in the South Pacific. On October 6, 1943, the 13th Air Force 42nd Bombardment Group (M) struck the Japanese base at Kahili at dusk delivering a devastating blow. The B-25's came in on the deck at 160 feet, using parachute bombs. The raid was over in 3 minutes with most enemy planes being destroyed. The 42nd Group received a special commendation from the Air Command for their outstanding mission.



13th AAF Daily Beacon: Destroyed Japanese plane on Guadalcanal.

Sam at Guadalcanal

General George C. Kenney, MacArthur's air commander, not only developed skip bombing by low flying medium bombers, but he also developed the use of the "Parafrag" bombs where 23-pound fragmentation bombs were dropped by small parachutes on enemy airfields. He also began using 100-pound incendiary bombs to destroy Japanese airplanes parked along runways. Kenney's use of "Kenney cocktails", parafrags and skip bombing earned him denunciations from the Japanese for his " new and fiendish methods of warfare".

The range of bombers and fighters was a great limiting factor in the Southwest Pacific air war. When targets within range of existing bases had been destroyed, new bases had to be taken so new enemy targets could be attacked. Thus, bases were continuously being moved and established. The 13th Air Force island stepping stones included: Espiritu Santo, Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, Stirling, Emirau, Admiralty, New Guinea, Wakde, Biak, Hollander, Noemfoor, and Morotai.

Sam Boylston was stationed on Espiritu Santo, Guadalcanal, Los Negros, Hollander, Noemfoor, Morotai and the Leyte in the Philippines.

LOS NEGROS

In June, 1944, Sam went ahead of the headquarters unit to Los Negros, an island north of New Britain. There were thousands of Japanese troops on New Britain that had been by-passed by the Americans. The nearby island of Biak had been taken from the Japanese in May, 1944. Japanese destroyers attempting to reinforce Biak, were discovered by the 13th Air Force and pushed back with serious losses. Even before Biak was secured, MacArthur ordered the seizure of Noemfoor, an island about sixty miles west of Los Negros, where the Japanese had three air bases.

In June, 1944, the 13th Air Force was transferred from the South to the Southwest Pacific area and became linked with the 5th Air Force under the command of General Kenney, who was in charge of all air operations for General MacArthur. After transfer to the Southwest Pacific, the 13th exercised operational control over its fighter snd bomber squadrons.

When Sam left Guadalcanal, as on other moves, he was on the advanced echelon to set up temporary headquarters during the various movements. They would establish skeleton sections to operate the Air Force headquarters until the movement was completed.

At Los Negros, the Headquarters buildings were open with burlap around the sides. The natives made grass roofs from coconut leaves and other plant material. There was no floor in the buildings, just dirt and sand. The island was about two degrees off the equator and it rained all the time. Mud was knee deep. Sometime the rain would wash through the tents like a river.

Sam Boylston's promotion to Staff Sergeant

HEADQUARTERS
THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 719

SUBJECT: AF of Z - Airport of Embarkation.
AAT - Government air transportation.

7 June 1944.

SPECIAL ORDERS)
)
NUMBER 159)

1. So much of Par 1, SO #121, this Hq, as, (TD at APO 719 and return) as reads '2d Lt JAMES WALSH, 0677351, 13th Tr Carr Sq, APO 709' is amended to read '2d Lt JAMES WALSH, Jr., 0677351, 13th Tr Carr Sq, APO 709'.

2. The following C in asgnts and travel are directed. WP. TDY.

Name	Rank	Rsld From	Asgd to	I via
S/Sgt Therwald J. Frederick, MOS (275) (579th Sig AF Bn, APO 709)	37068238,	23 w/Hq Sq Thirteenth AF, APO 719.	Report to Orgn for dy.	AAT (4) So T.
Sgt John P. Carroll, MOS (275) (578th Sig AF Bn, APO 709)	37379071,			
S/Sgt Lawrence A. Martin, MOS (275) (587th Sig AF Bn, APO 709)	33181684,			
Pfc John J. King, MOS (275) (319th Fir Contl Sq, APO 709)	32892253,			
Sgt Edward G. Deschiller, MOS (275) (551st Sig AF Bn, APO 709)	37374664,	23 w/Hq Sq Thirteenth AF, APO 719.	Report to Orgn for dy.	AAT (4) or PASYC.
2d Lt DUELLY T. MOORELAND, AC	0678652,	Hq Thirteenth AF, APO 719.		
Pvt Proceslo Alvarez, MOS (521)	38461317,			
Pvt Henry J. Coffey, MOS (521)	32802808,			
Pvt Elmer V. Dixon, MOS (521)	33446407,			
Pfc James O. Williamson, MOS (521) (42d Base Gp (H), APO 708-1)	34337831,			

3. The following travel is directed. WP. T

Name	Rank	From	To
2d Lt RALPH R. YAGER, (6th Repl Dep, APO 302)	01549152,	APO 719	APO 71 and re zone

S E C R E T

- 1 -

S E C R E T

SO #159, Hq Thirteenth AF, APO 719, 2d 7 June 1944, Cont'd.

4. So much of Par 2, SO #155, this Hq, as, (Asgnts, Rsld Fr) is amended as follows:

AS READ:		TO READ:	
Capt ANTHONY M. ORLANDO, MC	01701321,	Capt ANTHONY M. ORLANDO, MC	01701321.
Capt ROWLAND H. KUTLANDER, MC	01693506,	Capt ROWLAND H. KUTLANDER, MC	01693506.

5. The following named EM, Hq Sq, Thirteenth AF, APO 719, are temp promoted to gr indicated:

			Section
	TO BE STAFF SERGEANT		
Sgt	Samuel L. Boylston,	34652927	Med
	TO BE SERGEANT		
Cpl	Leo M. Chase,	33676994	Med
Cpl	William F. Walsh,	33687640	Med
	TO BE CORPORAL		
Pfc	Lee R. Kellenbaugh,	33810669	Med
Pfc	Cornelius F. O'Gorman,	36659291	Med.

By Command of Major General KLAHN:

PAUL R. YOUNG,
Colonel, GSC,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

C. C. KAYE,
1st Lt., AGD,
Asst Adj Gen.

DISTRIBUTION "C" PLUS:

2 - 13th Tr Carr Sq, APO 709.
2 - 579th Sig AF Bn, APO 709.
2 - 578th Sig AF Bn, APO 709.
2 - 587th Sig AF Bn, APO 709.
2 - 319th Fir Contl Sq, APO 709.
2 - 551st Sig AF Bn, APO 709.
2 - 7th Airforce Sq Fp, APO 709.
2 - XIII Bomber Cmd Combat Tng Center, APO 719.
2 - 6th Ferry Gp, APO 302.
2 - 4[illegible] Sq, APO 708.
2 - 67th Fir Sq, APO 302.
2 - 371st Base Sq, APO 324.
1 - Ord Sec.
4 - Lt MOORELAND
2 - Capt ORLANDO.
2 - Capt KUTLANDER.
6 - 1 L. SM Promoted.

S E C R E T

- 2 -

July 7[illegible]

Date 5 July 10

Sydney Leave Area

HQ. BASE SECTION SEVEN.

BOYLSTON SAMUEL L. S/SGT 34652927 Air Corps

Name — Rank Grade — Serial No. — Air Corps

has permission to be present on leave in Sydney, N.S.W., from July 5, 1944

report to Leave Registration Office 10 a.m. July 15 1944 A.P.O. 719

Manifest CHECK WITH AIR TRANSP

THREE DAYS BEFORE EXP. OF LEAVE

C. A. FERTIG,
LT. COL. INF.
LEAVE AREA OFFICER

AMERICAN RED CROSS SERVICE CLUB
Cnr. Creek and Albermarle Streets
BRISBANE No. 45663

28 JUN 1944

VOUCHER

194...

Name

Number

Room 0 Bed

Valid on Day of Issue Only
Not by 2.30 a.m. automatically cancelled.

ARMY AIR FORCES
AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND
BAGGAGE IDENTIFICATION TAG

25-97-78

GUADALCANAL

25-97-78

(1) FINAL A.T.C. DESTINATION
BRISBANE

(2) PRINT PASSENGER'S NAME — GRADE OR TITLE
Boylston S.L. — S/Sgt.

(3) SERIAL NUMBER 34652927

(4) WEIGHT OF THIS BAG 30

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Surgeon
APO # 719

11 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Itinerary of S/Sgt S. L. Boylston.

TO : Whom it May Concern.

1. Under the authority contained in par. 3, SO # 170, Hq Thirteenth Air Force, dtd 18 June 1944 and amendment, contained in par. 7, SO # 196, Hq Thirteenth Air Force, dtd 14 July 1944, the undersigned proceeded as follows:

Departed Guadalcanal	1130	27 June 1944
Arrived Amberly Field, Australia	2000	27 June 1944

2. I was given quarters for the night and breakfast the following morning at Amberly Field. I left this station by car and arrived at the Surgeon's Office, Far East Air Forces(P), APO # 925, at 1000, date 28 June 1944.

3. While at APO # 925, I received neither quarters or rations from the government. M/Sgt H. I. Rifkin and myself had a room in a private home. We had our meals in town. Our last night at APO 925, we were at the Riverview Service Center.

Departed APO # 925	0800	5 July 1944
Arrived Sydney	1030	5 July 1944

4. My stay in Sydney was on authorized furlough, granted by Hq FEAF (P). Furlough papers attached.

Departed Sydney	1130	15 July 1944
Arrived Rockhampton	1600	15 July 1944
Departed Rockhampton	0800	16 July 1944
Arrived Townsville	1030	16 July 1944
Departed Townsville	1130	16 July 1944
Arrived Port Moresby	1630	16 July 1944
Departed Port Moresby	1700	16 July 1944
Arrived Los Negros	2015	16 July 1944

Samuel L. Boylston,
T/Sgt, Med. Dept.,

The headquarters unit of the 13th Air Force moved from Guadalcanal to Los Negros, in the Admiralty Islands, during June and July, 1944. Major General St. Clair Streett became commander of the 13th on June 15, relieving General Hubert R. Harmon.
Under Gen. Streett, the 13th acquired direct operational control, not only of its heavy bombers, but also its medium bombers and fighters. With the operational control of its own tactical units, the 13th came into its own. Morale generally improved since the Airmen could now see and feel that the 13th was performing the function for which it had been designed.

Coral was a distinct characteristic of Los Negros. Coral was used to build air strips, roads, floors of tents and office buildings. The office buildings and chapel were all of native construction. The huts consisted of a roof supported by native timber with open sides to catch the breeze.

The Admiralties were under the control of Australia. The native population was divided between those living inland and seafarers near the coast.

A large Japanese task force, estimated at 40 ships, was sighted north of Yap Island on June 19, 1944. Carrier planes from this enemy task force were attacking Allied ground forces on Saipan. This resulted in the first major naval battle since the Battle of Midway. The Allies destroyed nearly 400 enemy aircraft and sunk or damaged 14 ships.

Liberators of the 13th reached out more than 1,000 miles from Los Negros to hit Japanese warships seeking refuge or fuel in Yap Harbor. The Japanese were caught by surprise before any of the 40 enemy planes could become airborne. About 19 planes were destroyed and 15 more damaged. The runway was rendered unserviceable.

Los Negros was fringed with sharp coral reefs which made swimming off the narrow beach all but impossible. Swimmers, however, could wear shoes and walk across the coral, far over the edge of the reef to deep emerald pools. Along the sides of the pool were colorful coral formations. Exotic fish of all color and type swam in and out of the grottoes.

Washington strategists were so impressed with MacArthur's triumph in the Admiralties that they issued a new directive covering Pacific operations. MacArthur was ordered to continue his advance into western New Guinea and the islands to the northwest in preparation for invading the Philippines. Nimitz's central Pacific forces were to neutralize Truk, occupy the Marianas in June, and take the Palau Islands in September. Halsey's South Pacific forces were divided between Nimitz and MacArthur, with MacArthur getting most of the army units and Nimitz , the naval forces.

While Sam was stationed on Guadalcanal, he had the opportunity to visit Australia for two weeks at Brisbane and Sydney. After many months in the jungle, it was great to see cities, streets, and sidewalks. Also, it was nice to see women in dresses, and children, and sitting

down to a white table cloth for dinner. While in Australia, Sam bought gifts for the family, which he sent back to the United States.

February 18, 1944

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I received a shower of letters from you a few days ago. Mail is coming over pretty fast now.

Daddy seemed a bit worried about the mosquitoes. Well, everything is all right and they don't bother us at night. I've slept under a mosquito bar every night since I've been over here. So don't think we have to sleep in the open, the army takes all protective measures.

I'm glad to hear Roy is back and on the job again. Tell him hello for me and I would like to hear from him. It's been a long time since he has written.

A few nights ago we had a USO show, three girls!! Ray Milland was there, It was pretty good and we all enjoyed it. It was the first show of this kind, I've seen over here.

We have a very nice theater and large stage. We will have the best pictures from now on. I saw a pretty good one last night.

I will write Junior the first chance I get. I'm glad he passed all his exams.

Everything is all right and I 'm well. I will have to write Papa today. Tell everybody hello.

Love to all,
Lionel

13th AAF Daily Beacon ; Ray Milland was the master of ceremonies for one of the 13th AAF shows. Shown with him in the photo are Frances Fay, Rosita Moreno and Mary Elliott, from South Carolina. These were the first girl entertainers to visit the South Pacific islands and the first American girls seen by most of the men in many months.

February 29, 1944

Dear Brother,

I have been trying to write you on a number of occasions but somehow I always have too much to do but I shall try to write again on this nice Sunday morning. It's beautiful, for the sun is shining very bright, the birds singing and the little lizards playing up and down the weeds and trees. Today will be a hot one and I will sit and dream of those good ole days when I was in the Drug Store with all that ice cream and nice cold things to drink. Those were the good ole days and I often think about them.

I got a war club from one of the natives. It's a funny looking thing. It's about two feet long and has a sharp point, also a handle. I took it and painted it up with all kinds of designs. I will probably see it back to a native now. We jew them down to a dollar or end up with some kind of a swap. We swapped a bottle of peroxide and also a pipe for some of the things. They make grass skirts and all kinds of hats. They still live in grass huts and they wear very little clothes. Usually one piece around their body and that's all. We see the men all the time but the women have to stay home and do all the work. Some of the natives work for the army and they really help out. They speak a few words of English, just enough to understand them. They all smoke pipes and like our tobacco but for cigarettes, they don't smoke. They usually say, "No like, no like".

Some of the boys caught another bear the other day and it was smaller than mine, also different color. They put him on the top of the tent and we all watched him play and run around. I think they turned him a loose.

We still go swimming every opportunity, but here lately our chow time has been interfering with our evening swim. We don't go as much as we did for awhile. I always go on my day off. I still have a sun tan but it's not as good as it was when I first got over here but I will have a good one when I return.

Some of the fellows have a parrot, a great big fellow, green and all kinds of colors. They call him Pete and he crawls all over the place. You call him and he comes running. Eats about everything that they give him. They bought him from a native for seven dollars.

We have a few crocodiles on this island for some of the fellows have killed them. They stay in the fresh water streams and we don't go there. I haven't seen them myself but some of the fellows killed a big one somewhere last week.

I have been hearing things about your studying and I don't think they are too good. I wrote you a long letter about a month ago and I thought you had begun to do a little studying but I think I was wrong. If you don't start now you just as well quit for everything you get now will help you later. Studying really isn't hard and you have to make up your mind to do it. Once you have done this you will find that things in the future will come much easier. I would like to hear that you did good on everything and not on a few subjects. Don't just study one thing but study them all, read a lot, learn new words (don't just look at them, use a dictionary), master what you have been over. During High School its a lot of repetition and the same things will keep coming back and you should know them by heart and how to use everything. The things you miss now don't seem to matter but I tell you the day will come when you wish a thousand times that you had listened to me. I know what I've missed and what

I've done wrong but I will make up for that someday. It won't just come to me but I will have to study for it. No, it won't be long before you will be going to college and when you go there, I want you to be sure that you know what you are doing. I want you to pick out something that you would like to do (some professional occupation). Don't wail until you are at college to make a choice. Make it now, study for it now, read about what you want to do and I assure you that by my help and the help of Mother and Daddy, you will get what you want. It's up to you and you are your own judge to make yourself what you want.

Your Brother,
Lionel

March 6, l944

Dear Brother,

Today my mind is wondering far over the water and somewhere in the United States. I hate days like this, when there's nothing to do and if there were I wouldn't feel like doing it. I know you are wondering whether I'm going to mention the weather. Yes, it rained today and it cleared up and its hot again. We, out here always mention the weather for it's part of our lives and our days in this South Pacific. I would rather think of home and spring. It won't be long before the nights will be cool and the days nice and warm. I use to like the spring for it always had everything that everybody wanted. Cotton coming up, spring gardens, and I would always wonder when the fish would bite and just when to try them. I would probably be getting a fishing pole ready now if I were home, but why wish- for it's all in vain.

First, I must tell you something that I've been hearing and I don't like. Mother and Daddy told me about your work in school although they say you are doing better I must still say, better isn't enough. I don't want you to just pass, but I want you to make good grades. No one will ever get angry with you if you make fair marks and that's all I ask. Another thing-it does no good to make A's unless you really know what you are doing. So that's the point. It makes no difference whether it is an A or B, maybe a D, just as long as you know what you are doing. Mathematics are hard for you but if you would do more studying and really try, I'm sure you will get it. Don't let anyone fool you for you will need Math later on and take all you can get. English, well I'm surprised at you for it's not hard and once you get it, from then on, its almost the same. I always made good on English grammar but my trouble was I never did read enough or learn to spell a word right. "Whatcha" say, do a little studying now and take a break later. It will be easier and you will find out that my advice is pretty good. I've been that way once.

Today Daddy's papers came and I will read them tonight. It will be good to read a State Paper again. The news will be a little old but that won't make any difference out here. I have seen the movie so I won't go and instead I shall have a big time reading what the folks back home are doing.

I wanted to go swimming but it looks hopeless now for its getting a little late and I can't go swimming and eat chow also. Tell everybody hello back home and write me a long letter sometime.

Your brother,
Lionel

to Mother
On her day

FROM A SOLDIER
FAR ACROSS THE BLUE
COMES A SALUTE,
DEAR MOTHER,
JUST FOR YOU
SOMEWHERE IN THE DUTCH EAST INDIE
Leonel

National Archives: American troops(163rd infantry) land on Wadke Island, Dutch New Guinea, May 18, 1944.

June 30, 1944

Dear Folks,

I must write you a brief summary of my stay so far in Australia. I have only been here a few days and I'm not accustomed to this life, but I'm having a grand time while it lasts.

The medium of exchange is a bit confusing but I'm learning a little more each day. The money is just a bunch of coupons as far as I'm concerned. We used American money in the Islands all together.

The Red Cross found us, M/Sgt. Rifkin and myself, a room in a private home which is also very nice. The lady is Irish but also very much Australian. We enjoyed eating at a table and sleeping in a bed for a change. I got that glass of milk and was really an improvement over our canned cow. I also saw part of the country life, the funny trains and many other things which I had heard about and read about; yet never seen.

This is really going to be a nice vacation and I will write you more about it when I return to the islands.

Today, I made a recording with one of the war correspondents and some more soldiers. It was by the Red Cross and will be broadcast in the U.S., some time in August. He asked me several questions and I answered them. Although, I did speak for a minute or so. He said you would be notified and it will come over Mutual Broadcasting. If you listen you can't miss me and my southern drawl. Don't forget to let Papa know so he can hear it if you are told when it will be on the air. I know he will be thrilled. It was really a lucky break and I sincerely wish it gets to the states all right.

My love to all and I will write when I return.

Your loving Son,
Lionel

P. S.
They announced me as S/Sgt. Samuel Boylston, Graniteville, South Carolina.

U.S. Army: U.S. Army paratroopers landing on Noemfoor air field.

HOLLANDIA, NEW GUINEA

In June, 1944, Sam was on an advance echelon to establish 13th Air Force Headquarters at Hollandia on New Guinea. It was a very primitive area in the jungle. Although Hollandia had been taken at little cost, it provided a considerable advance along the northern coast of New Guinea. It provided a fighter base to cover the next U.S. advance. However, the base had insufficient space for bombers.

Sam had a brief stay at Hollandia. It was a good base. There he met some pigmies and other different types of natives, including some former cannibals. One of the natives wore jungle boots, GI underwear and a GI helmet liner. Sam did a watercolor of him.

Painting of South Pacific island by Sam Boylston during WWII

NOEMFOOR

Sam was on the move again in July, 1944 when he moved with the advanced headquarters to Noemfoor Island off the New Guinea coast. Noemfoor's 3 major airfields were used to support the Philippine drive as well as attack the Japanese oil resources in Borneo. The Japanese oil refineries at Balikpapan on Borneo provided about 40 percent of the total Japanese lubricating oil supply. Thirteenth Air Force B-24 Liberators flying from Noemfoor in September, 1944, over 2400 miles round trip, struck the oil refineries a destructive blow. Five Liberators were lost; two over the target and two crash landed on Morotai.

While Sam was based on Noemfoor, Japanese planes attacked the base and dropped a large bomb on the mess hall. The Executive Officer came running to the mess hall dressed in his underwear, helmet, jungle boots and a 45 pistol strapped around his waist. He was the best dressed man at the bombing.

The Japanese bomb was phosphorus, made of pipes that were supposed to scatter when detonated at great height. The Japanese pilot came in too low and dropped the bomb which didn't explode until it hit the mess hall. The only person in the building was the cook, who ran out the back door into a large grease trap. He climbed out, took all his clothing and piled it in a neat pile and walked away buck naked.

MOROTAI

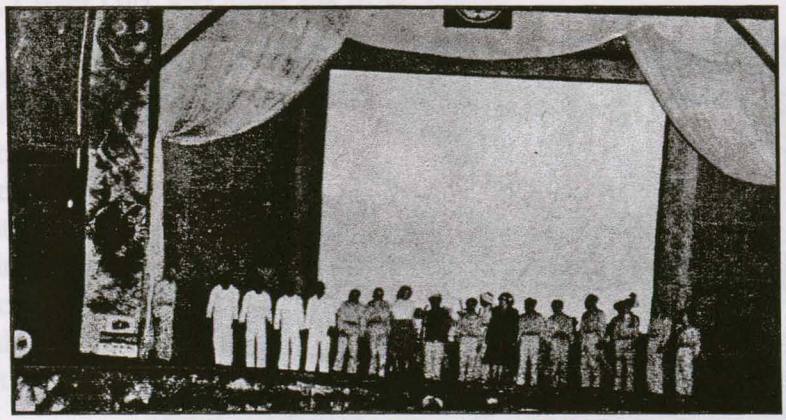
Usually the headquarters of an Air Force follows its tactical units into newly won territory; seldom does it lead them. However, this doctrine was altered in 1944, when the 13th headquarters personnel spearheaded the advance into Morotai, which at that time was the most advanced Allied base in the Southwest Pacific.

The 13th Air Force headquarters was established at Morotai Island in August, 1944. Sam moved with the headquarters group. From Morotai, the 13th Air Force struck the Japanese oil fields in Borneo and enemy shipping lanes. Morotai bases were bombed by the Japanese on a regular basis.

One night, a Japanese attack destroyed 25 Australian planes on the ground, set many buildings on fire, and dropped a string of eight large bombs on the headquarters. This killed two airmen and wounded about fifteen. All the ambulances were being used at the air base, so Sam drove a weapons carrier loaded with wounded men from the headquarters area to the base hospital, while the bombing was continuing.

Sam Boylston received a special commendation for his bravery in transporting the wounded during the enemy air raid.

While at Morotai, Sam went on a flight to a nearby island and when returning, the pilot by mistake flew very low over Halmahera Island where there were 90,000 Japanese troops. Once he realized his mistake, he did a very fast exit.



13th AAF Daily Beacon: Outdoor theater for stage shows and movies.

Some of the islands around Morotai had active volcanoes and there were a number of earthquakes.

Sam and his friend Duke built a big raft with a sail and rudder while on Morotai. They launched their sail-raft out to sea and shortly thereafter their rudder broke. The ocean current carried them toward the island full of Japanese. They were about to make a two-man invasion when a PT Patrol Boat came to their rescue. The PT Boat pulled them out of danger. That ended their sailing career.

13th AAF Daily Beacon: Mary Elliott of Gaffney, South Carolina who entertained the troops in1944.

Stage shows were very popular with the airmen. The enthusiasm of the audience depended on the type of show. Feminine charm alone was capable of evoking a great response from the troops. Beauty and artistry brought down the house. Some of those putting on shows for the 13th Air Force included: Bob Hope, Kay Kyser, Jack Benny, and Gracie Fields.

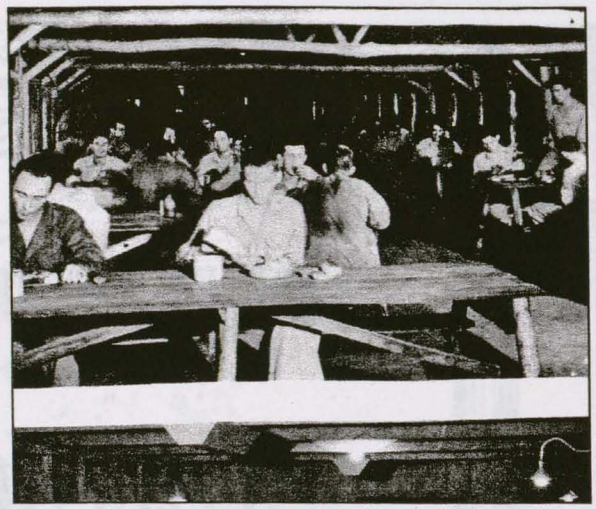
Back home, during the war, almost every large city had recreational facilities for servicemen and women. Washington had the National Press Club Canteen and New York had the Stage Door Canteen.

Hollywood was also involved in the war effort. While many actors entered the various branches of the service, others helped with bond rallies. As far as making movies, the industry generally avoided the realities of war and stuck to innocuous escape-type films. This was fine with servicemen since they didn't want to see war movies, but movies with lots of girls and laughs. Some of the famous World War II films included: A Yank in the RAF, Casablanca, Mrs. Miniver, Bataan, Guadalcanal Diary, White Cliffs of Dover, and 30 Seconds over Tokyo. Movies that did not involve the war that were enjoyed by the servicemen included: That Night in Rio, Road to Morocco, Cover Girl, and Meet Me in St. Louis.

Morotai was the final stepping stone to the Philippines. On September 15, 1943, less than two hours after American troops landed, MacArthur arrived to look over his most advanced outpost, only 300 miles from the Philippines. One of his aides recalls that MacArthur looked toward the northeast and said, " They are waiting for me there, it has been a long time".

13th AAF Daily Beacon: The chow line

Night life on Morotai was close to fox holes during the last quarter of 1944 since the island was raided by the Japanese more frequently than any other base in the Southwest Pacific. Foxholes were dug as deep as possible and covered with coconut logs and sand bags. Three shots from the 90 mm announced to the island that a "bandit" had appeared. Then, there was the dash to the nearest hole. Above the thunder of anti-aircraft fire the men listened for the slamming noise of enemy bombs exploding in quick succession. Even after the enemy bombers left, the men stayed in their foxholes as the shrapnel from the anti-aircraft shells rained down.



13th AAF Daily Beacon: Headquarters mess hall.

In 82 Japanese raids on Morotai, from September 15, 1944 to February 1, 1945, the enemy destroyed 42 U.S. planes and damaged 33. On Thanksgiving Day, 1944, Americans on Morotai worked all day clearing the wreckage of 15 Allied planes destroyed by the Japanese the night before.

On Morotai, Sam met his friend, Ficklin Foy, who was from Springfield, SC. He was in a group that was sent overseas for just a year, and four years later he was still there. Ficklin got some dynamite, a truck battery, some wires and a native canoe. He and his friends went out beyond the edge of the coral reef and waited for a big school of coral perch to swim by, then they threw the dynamite over, attached to wires and then touched the wires to the battery and BANG! Fish were everywhere, floating on the surface. They jumped in and filled the boat with fish. After obtaining the fish, they traded ballpoint pens to the Aussies for Australian beer. Also, they went to fighter command and bought a quart of good stateside bourbon for sixty-five dollars. All their friends were invited to a big fish fry. A good time was had by all.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Commendation

Technical Sergeant Samuel L. Boylston
34652927

You are to be commended for your courageous actions on the night of 22 November 1944 when during an attack by Japanese bomber, you, without thought of self, left your place of shelter in order to aid others. Anti-aircraft fire at this time was intense but despite this danger you assisted in clearing wreckage, searching for wounded, administering first aid and removing the injured to safety. Your calmness, judgment and unhesitating actions are extremely praiseworthy.

ST. CLAIR STREETT,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

CLUB
13
THE "JUNGLE AIR FORCE"
PHOTOGRAPHS BY 6TH COMBAT CAMERA UNIT
LAYOUT - CPL. LAESSIG

THE ENLISTED MEN'S CLUB

of

Headquarters, Thirteenth Air Force

(Rear Echelon)

Cordially Invites You

to attend its

OPENING NIGHT DANCE

* * *

1900 Hours

Saturday Night

26 May 1945

JUNGLE AIR FORCE

M U S I C

By Fuzzy Edwards and the 600th Army Air Force Band

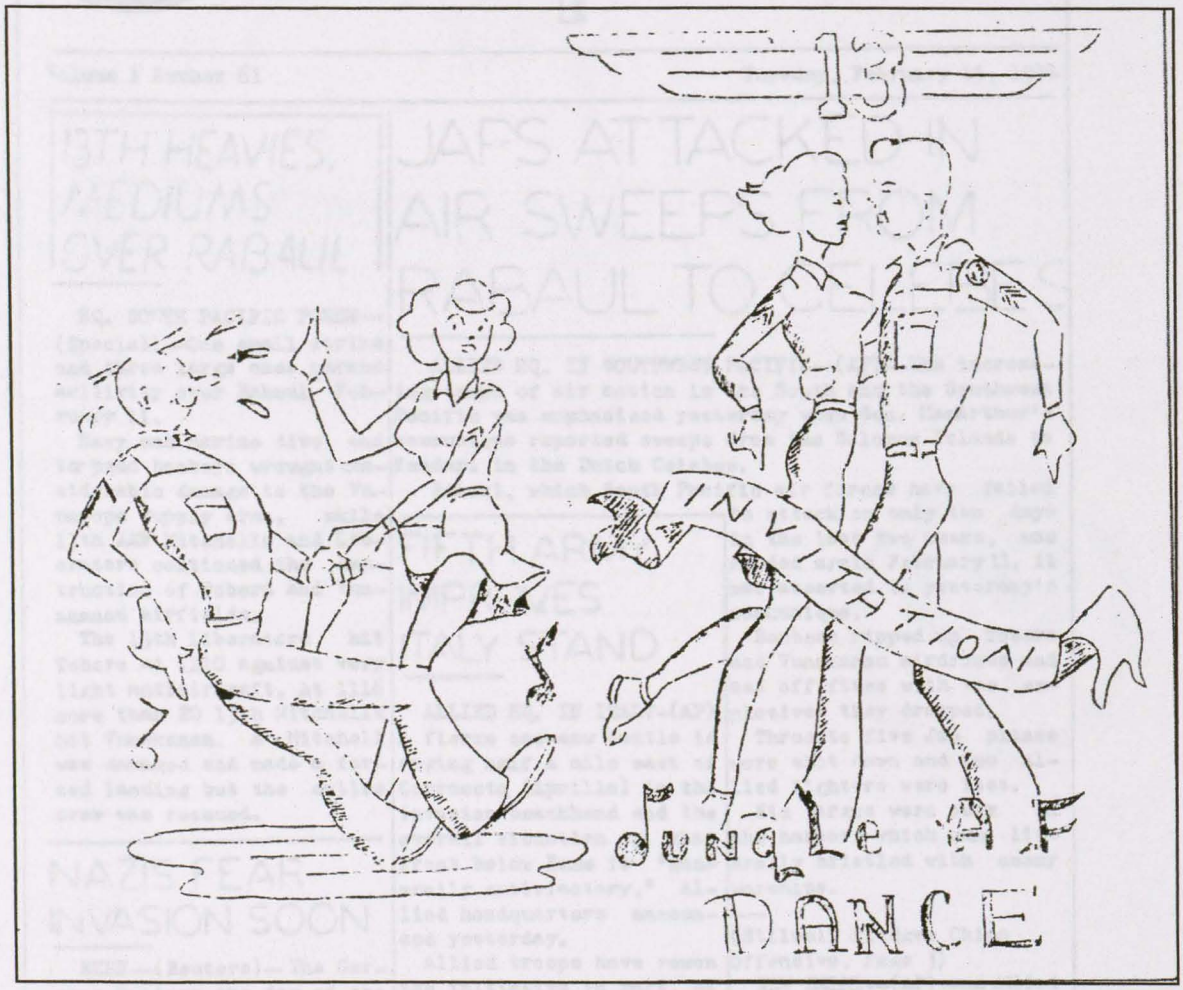
Dancing As You Like It

R E F R E S H M E N T S

Cocktails Sandwiches

Ice Cream Cake

By The Netherlands East Indies Catering Service


13
INVITATION
DANCE

Thirteenth A.A.F.

Daily Beacon

Volume 1 Number 61 Tuesday, February 15, 1944

13TH HEAVIES, MEDIUMS OVER RABAUL

HQ. SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE—(Special)—One small strike and three large ones marked activity over Rabaul February 11.

Navy and Marine dive and torpedo bombers wrought considerable damage to the Vunapope supply area, while 13th AAF Mitchells and Liberators continued the destruction of Tobera and Vunakanau airfields.

The 13th Liberators hit Tobera at 1110 against very light antiaircraft. At 1116 more than 20 13th Mitchells hit Vunakanau. A Mitchell was damaged and made a forced landing but the entire crew was rescued.

NAZIS FEAR INVASION SOON

BERN—(Reuters)—The Germans believe the day of the Allied invasion is near and to display the extent of the anti-invasion defenses they have invited neutral journalists to tour the defended areas with "guides."

JAPS ATTACKED IN AIR SWEEPS FROM RABAUL TO CELEBES

ALLIED HQ. IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC—(AP)—The increasing tempo of air action in the South and the Southwest Pacific was emphasized yesterday when Gen. MacArthur's communique reported sweeps from the Solomon Islands to Kendari in the Dutch Celebes.

Rabaul, which South Pacific air forces have failed to attack on only two days in the last two weeks, was raided again February 11, it was asserted in yesterday's communique.

Bombers ripped up Tobera and Vunakanau airdromes and set off fires with the explosives they dropped.

Three to five Jap planes were shot down and two Allied fighters were lost.

Six barges were sunk in the harbor, which once literally bristled with enemy warships.

(Stilwell Pledges China Offensive, Page 3)

NEW DELHI—(AP)—An Allied drive from Asia coordinated with the transPacific pincers was promised yesterday as enemy fortifications in

(Turn to Page 4 Col. 3)

FIFTH ARMY IMPROVES ITALY STAND

ALLIED HQ. IN ITALY-(AP) A fierce see-saw battle is raging half a mile east of Carrocoto (Aprilla) in the invasion beachhead and the overall situation on that front below Rome is "generally satisfactory," Allied headquarters announced yesterday.

Allied troops have rewon the initiative in part, at least, from powerful Nazi forces pressing upon them and are striking offensive blows.

Reinforced with fresh troops, the Allies hammered at the Germans near Ca-

MORN. EDITION

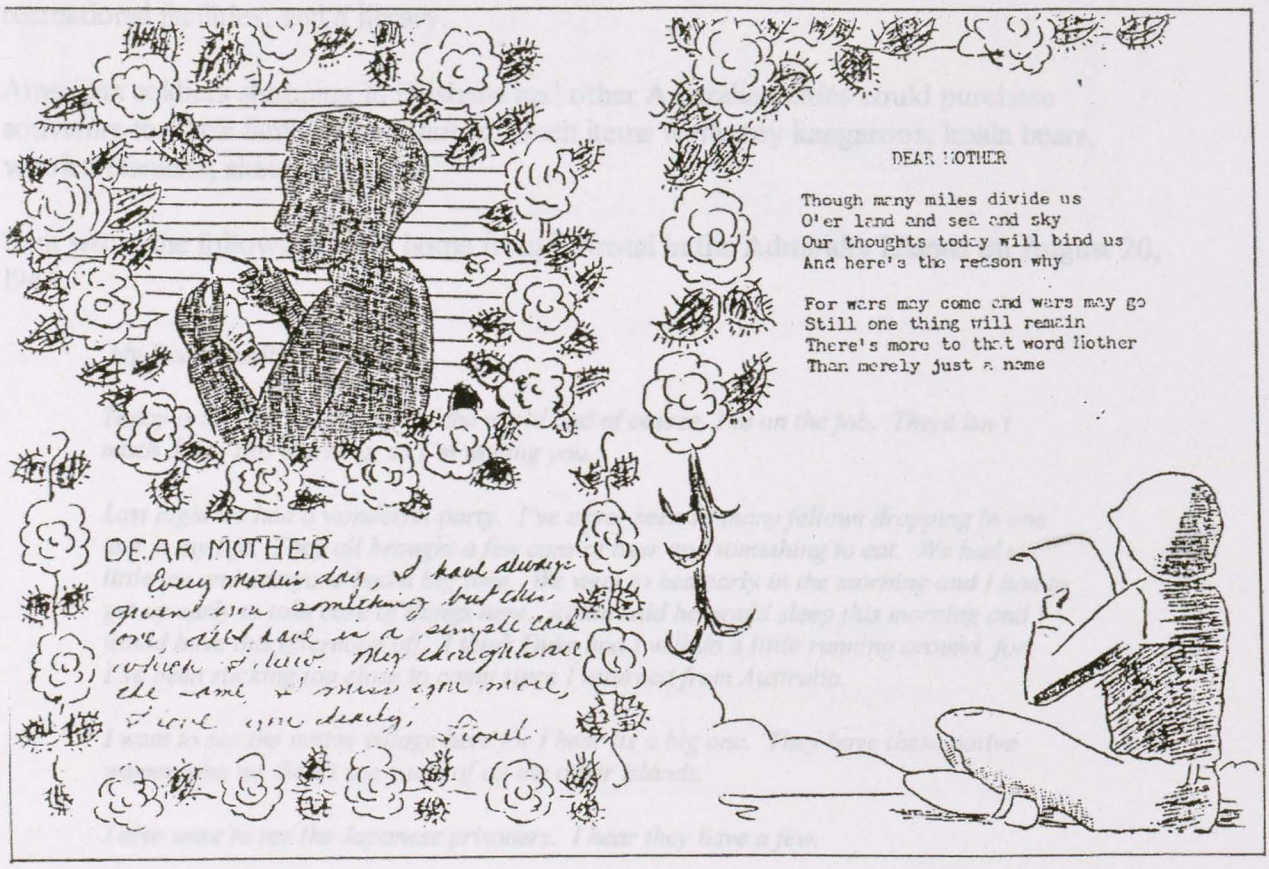
I appreciated this more than any gift I ever recd. from him

THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

13

"Somewhere in the South Pacific"

I drew this and we made 510 copies of it — all the person I could have me



I appreciated this more than any gift I could need from him

Thirteenth Air Force personnel visiting Australia on leave were treated to a chance to see civilization again. After living in jungle tents and walking in mud for many months, Australia was a great place to visit. Brisbane was a city of small shops and considered an overgrown county town. Although, not a cosmopolitan city, it was a friendly place and a welcome relief for the Americans.

By showing orders authorizing their stay in Brisbane, enlisted men were given admission to the American Red Cross. The Red Cross provided sleeping quarters, a restaurant, recreational facilities, and a library.

American soldiers shopping in Brisbane and other Australian cities could purchase souvenirs for their families back home. Such items were: toy kangaroos, koala bears, woolen blankets, sheep skins, etc.

Sam wrote the following letter home from Morotai in the Admiralty Islands on August 20, 1944.

My Dear Family,

Today is Sunday in this part of the world and of course, I'm on the job. There isn't much doing this morning, so I'm writing you.

Last night we had a wonderful party. I've never seen so many fellows dropping in one tent in my life. They all brought a few cans of beer and something to eat. We had a little ice and everyone had a big time. We went to bed early in the morning and I had to get up early to take care of things here. Rifkin said he would sleep this morning and I would have this afternoon off. I think Duke and I will do a little running around, for I've been sticking too close to camp since I returned from Australia.

I want to see the native village here for I hear its a big one. They have these native women who we didn't see much of on the other islands.

I also want to see the Japanese prisoners. I hear they have a few.

Tell Junior I will mail him the souvenirs soon. I haven't had much time.

I received a nice letter from Vincent. He said he was going to send me a paper.

Your letter, or should I say your last letter, was certainly devoted to Alice, but I'm always a jump ahead of you--

I would like to have a few magazines. Maybe you could get me a subscription to some magazine like Life, Look or Readers Digest or all three. You can take it out of the next money order.

Well, I think that covers everything for this time.

Love to all,
Lionel

Sam wrote another letter form Morotai in the Admiralty Islands on August 22, 1944. This letter is shown below.

Dear Mother and Daddy ,

Today I received two letters from you on August 9 and it was good to hear from you The mail hasn't been coming in, but one of these days I'll get a flock of letters and spend weeks answering them.

I know you heard me over the radio and I hope you enjoyed it. I couldn't say all I wanted to, but just hearing my voice from Australia was good, I guess. The program had to be worked out so they could get a good idea about the way Australians were treating Americans. Only a few could get on the program and I was very lucky. I guess you have written me about it. I wonder if Papa heard it and what he said. I bet I had a slow southern drawl. He said he wanted a southern boy and that's what he got.

Daddy asked about Bish and I mentioned him in several letters previous to this one. He should be going home soon, but when he doesn't know. He has 31 months over here now.

All of the boys that I sent you pictures of are here except Summerlin. Remember, I told you he was in the hospital and is still in the hospital. We hear from him often and he expects to join us again soon.

Every day I say I'm going to mail Junior the Japanese cigarettes and the coin that I have, but I either forget it or I'm too busy doing something else. I will attend to it tonight.

I think Bob Hope and his show is coming here sometime soon. Bish saw him before he joined us and he said it was really good. I certainly hope he does come.

I think it's about time Leon got on his way for if he's going to catch me, he had better hurry. I would like to run into the old boy! Charles Green was at one of the places I

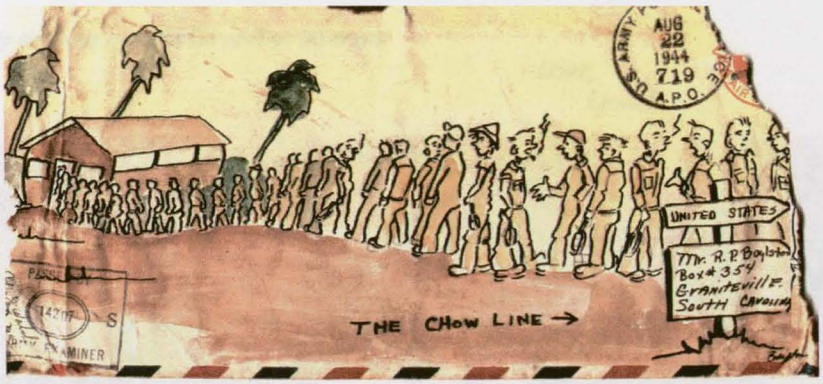
stopped and I didn't know it till Phil Corker wrote and gave me his address. I will probably have a chance to see him later. I'm writing to him today.

I was surprised to see that Cotton Ed got beat by Johnson. The people must have changed their views about both men, or Johnson has a pretty good machine running in the state. I thought I might vote this year. You know the soldiers from most states can vote, but South Carolina makes you swear you are a white man and be enrolled on the Democratic Club Roll and that's too much trouble. I will have plenty of time to vote when I return.

I was glad to hear that everyone is feeling better and you are enjoying some cool weather. It's a long way from cool here.

I must close and get back to the job, so till again, soon..

Love to all,
Lionel



Another letter was written by Sam from Morotai in the Admiralty Islands on August 24, 1944.

Dear Family,

Today, it's hot, although a cool breeze is blowing from the ocean. The only time it cools is when it rains, but even then you couldn't call it cool.

We are working in native built huts with no flooring. It's not bad and cooler than it would be otherwise. This morning things are moving rather slowly so I will write.

I was sorry to hear that you missed the radio program. I thought it would be on some station we couldn't get in South Carolina. I wish you could have heard it.

Yesterday, I met an old football player from Carolina. He was J. B Henson. He played fullback at school. He's been in the Army Air Force quite awhile and is now a Major. We had a big time talking of school days. I told him of another boy in this outfit that knew him and was a Carolina with us.

Tell Junior I received his letter and will write again soon. I sent his souvenirs yesterday.

Tell Roy and the boys hello and write soon.

Love,
Lionel

While still on Morotai, Sam wrote the following letter home on September 3, 1944.

Dear Mother and Daddy,

This is one of those nights when you find nothing to do, for I've seen the movie twice and I didn't care to see it anymore. The boys are playing cards. They wanted me to play, but I guess I'd better write this first.

Today I received three letters from you, one from Mama, and Roy's was a very nice letter. I enjoyed them all. Thanks for the news clippings.

Today at work was very quiet, although for some ungodly reason I was busy and didn't get away until late. We certainly have a swell bunch working here and we all get along fine. I don't think you could find a better bunch of officers anywhere. We work when there's work and when its nothing to do we discuss the war or maybe the girl situation. Both officers and enlisted men keep me drawing cartoon envelopes.

Their friends always write back and remark about them. I would like to see all the envelopes I've fixed up. Would certainly be a site.

I saw the new picture, "Bathing Beauty", last night and enjoyed it. I guess that was because of the color and the good music. Mother should see it for I'm sure she would enjoy it. There are some very funny scenes.

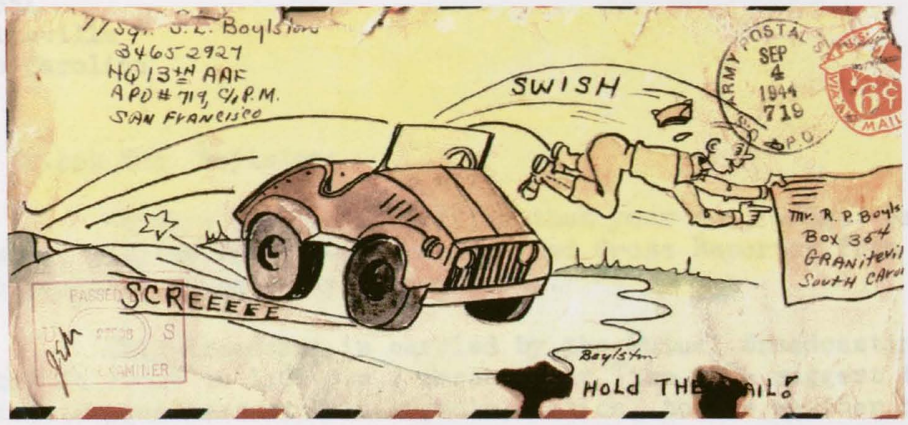
Tomorrow is my day off and I will write Roy and Junior, also others whom I owe letters.

I'm glad everything is fine at home and everybody is getting over their illness.

Tonight, we have a full moon, it's cool for it's been raining continuously since last night. I thought I would wash away. Really, the stream was running right under my cot. We made the necessary repairs.

Well, that's all for now.

Love to all,
Lionel



The events of 1944, marked the end of Germany. The Russians began a great offensive in eastern Europe, breaking the siege of Leningrad on January, 27, 1944. Also, during this period the American and British Air Forces were systematically destroying German's ability to produce war materials.

The Allied Air Forces played a major role in defeating Germany. The Allies concentrated on developing long range bombers, while the Germans had concentrated on designing the Luftwaffe, to support their ground forces in blitzkrieg campaigns. The Allied emphasis on long range bombers paid off as the war progressed. By 1942, as many as 1,000 Allied bombers were making almost daily raids over Europe.

While the British favored saturation bombing at night, the U.S Eighth Air Force favored pin-point bombing from high altitudes by daylight. Instead of attempting to destroy entire industries, the Allies knocked out key targets such as hydroelectric dams which supplied electrical power to German industries.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D.C.

August 7, 1944

Mr.and Mrs. R.P. Boylston
Box 354
Graniteville
South Carolina

Dear Mr.and Mrs. Boylston:

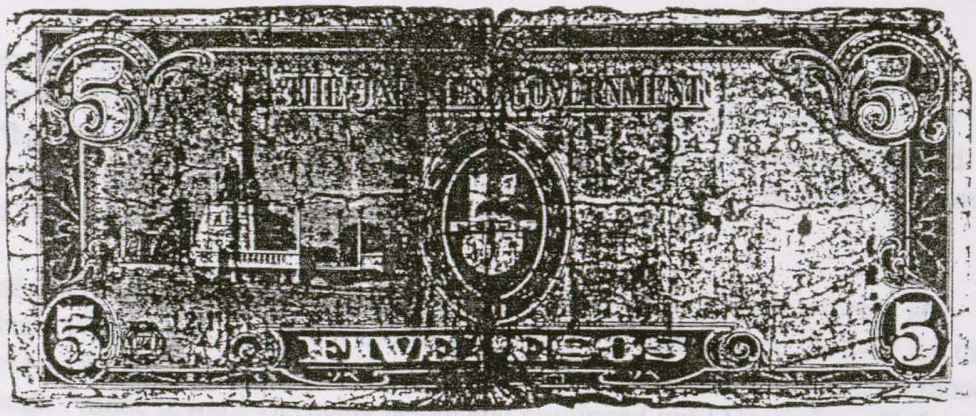
We have just been notified that your son, S/Sgt. Samuel Boylston, will be interviewed on our "Red Cross Reporter from Australia" radio program, on Saturday, August 12th.

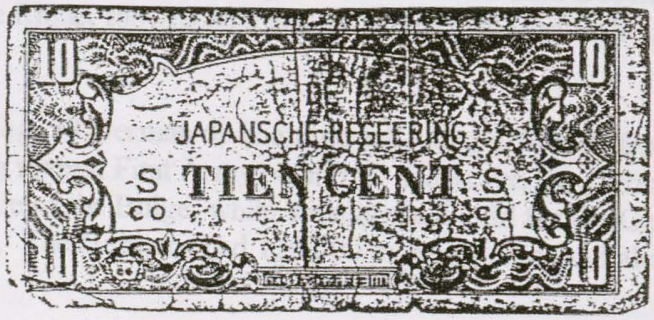
This broadcast is carried by the Mutual Broadcasting System network at 12:45 to 1:00 p.m., Eastern War Time. We suggest that you check with your nearest Mutual radio station, to see whether or not they carry this program, and at what time, since some stations rebroadcast this at a different hour.

We shall send you, as soon as possible, a paper-based record of the above interview, for victrola use.

Cordially,
F. Bourne Ruthrauff
F. Bourne Ruthrauff
Executive Assistant Director
Publicity Department

Captured Japanese money that Sam Boylston sent to his brother, Raymond Boylston, during World war II





The greatest event of 1944 was the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. It involved about 3 million men, 16 million tons of arms, munitions, and supplies. The invasion force involved 5,000 large ships, 4,000 landing craft, and more than 11,000 aircraft.

While the Germans bitterly resisted the Allied Normandy invasion, Hitler launched his secret weapons on Britain on June 13, 1944. The V-I, Vergeltungswaffe (Vengeance Weapon) or "buzz bomb" was a jet flying bomb, while the V-2 was a supersonic guided missile. These new weapons were very advanced and struck fear in the British, but came too late in the war to have a significant impact on the outcome.

The capture of Cherbourg, France on June 27, 1944 gave the Allied invasion forces an excellent harbor. When Saint Lo fell to the Allies on July 18, that opened the way for the breakout from Normandy on July 25. On August 15, the Allies landed in southern France. The race through France toward Germany began and continued until December. Before the Allies could cross the Rhine, they faced a last-stand German onslaught in the Ardennes Forest.

Under cover of a heavy fog, 38 German divisions struck along a 50-mile front on December 16 overrunning several First Army positions. However, the Germans could not take Bastogne. The Battle of the Bulge, while initially successful for the Germans, resulted in a great defeat. The Germans had 110,000 men captured, and about 100,000 other casualties.

Sam wrote home from the Netherlands East Indies on October 29, 1944.

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I received your nice letters and I've been getting one or two each day. It's nice to get mail like that for it gives me a chance to keep up with things.

Mama writes often and I enjoy all her letters. I still have to answer Aunt Sara's letter and also Elaine's.

I'm working hard. We are cleaning up the place and trying to make it more comfortable. I'm not doing too much with my tent. Duke and I are together and when Nagy arrives we will all get a tent somewhere. Nagy found his brother and they were certainly glad to see each other.
I received one letter from Leon. I know where he is now, but its a little too far. Probably later we will come closer and I will see him. If I had known sooner, I could have taken a plane, but he didn't write.

I'm glad so many packages are on the way. You know it will be a happy day when they all arrive. Everybody is expecting plenty for they all sent lists home for things they want and need. I hope the watch reaches here all right for I don't know what happened last year. You shouldn't have bought a good watch for I don't need one

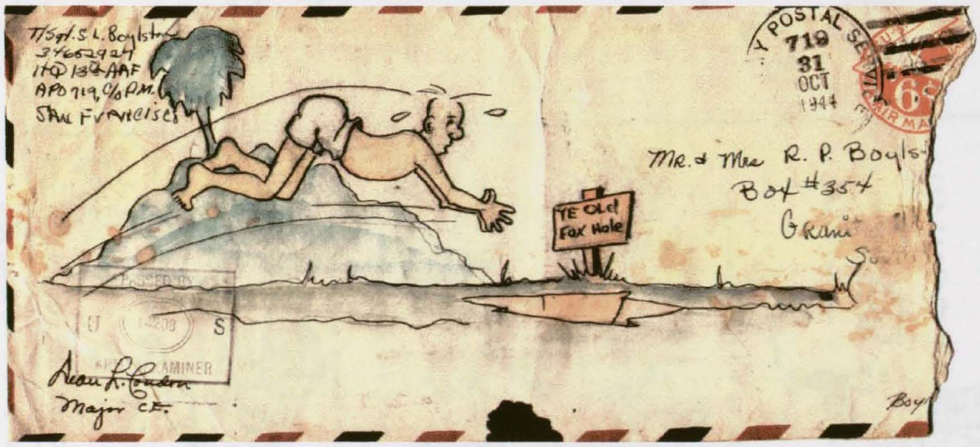
that much. All the fellows have them and I will appreciate mine. I know it will be very, very nice.

You should get the pictures soon. I haven't done too much drawing lately, but I've seen plenty to draw. I will get down to work when everything is settled.

We still have a few air raids occasionally and everyone has something to talk about. We are kept busy so its not as monotonous as some of the other islands.

Well, I must close, but keep the letters coming. Tell everybody hello and write soon.

Love to all,
Lionel



Ralph Lewis
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

October 2, 1944

T/ Sgt. S. L. Boylston

Dear Boylston,

Your fine letter, beautifully done, came today. It has been passed around the office and thoroughly enjoyed by all. I plan to see what I can do about having a plate made. If we can get a good cut, I'd like to run it in the news for all of the boys and girls in the service to enjoy. Maybe we can get it run in one of the state dailies. I don't have a great deal of time to devote to a long letter to you now, but must let you know how much we have appreciated your very fine effort. Write us more letters like it. Maybe I can write you more later.

Very best wishes,

Ralph

n C. Hedden, '43A . - - - - Asst. Editor

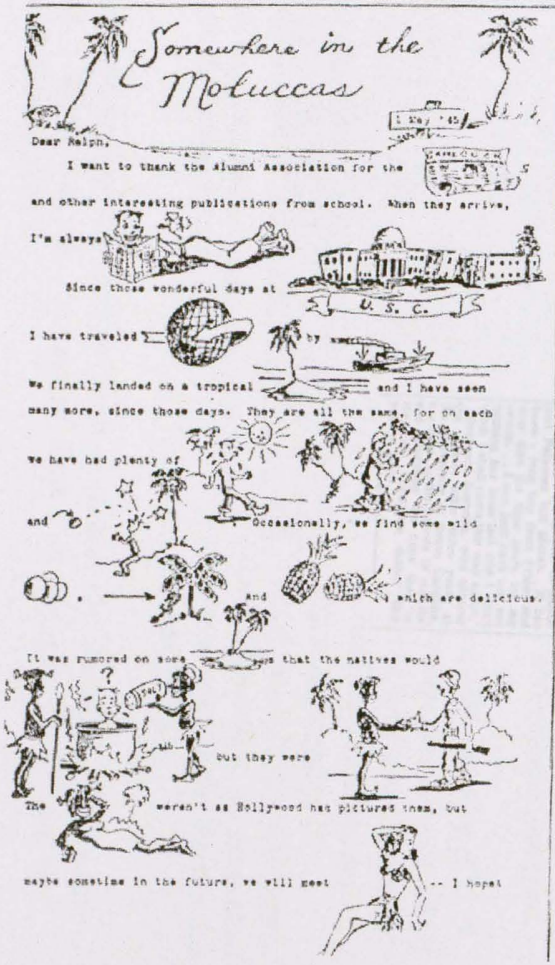
ailed by the Alumni Association Office to
bers of the Association and to non-member
ni in the Armed Forces whose addresses are
ile in the Alumni Office

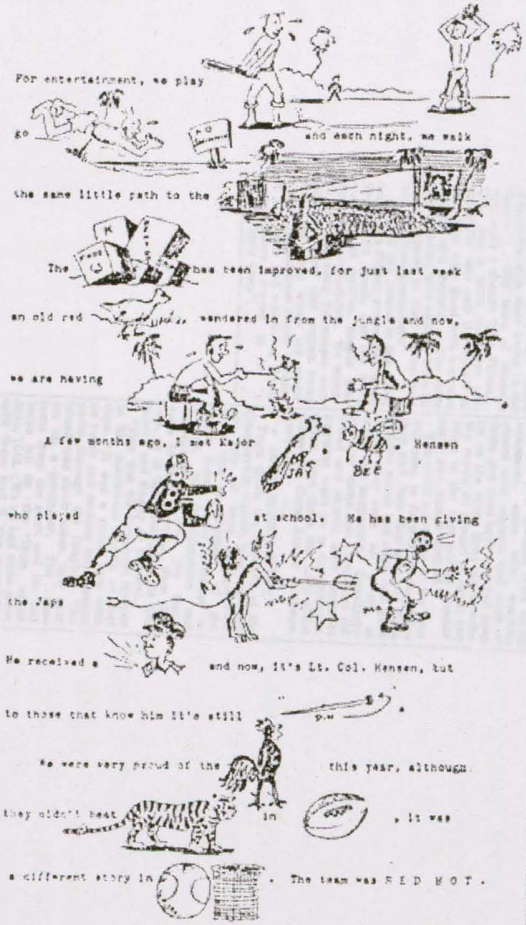
On The Alumni Front

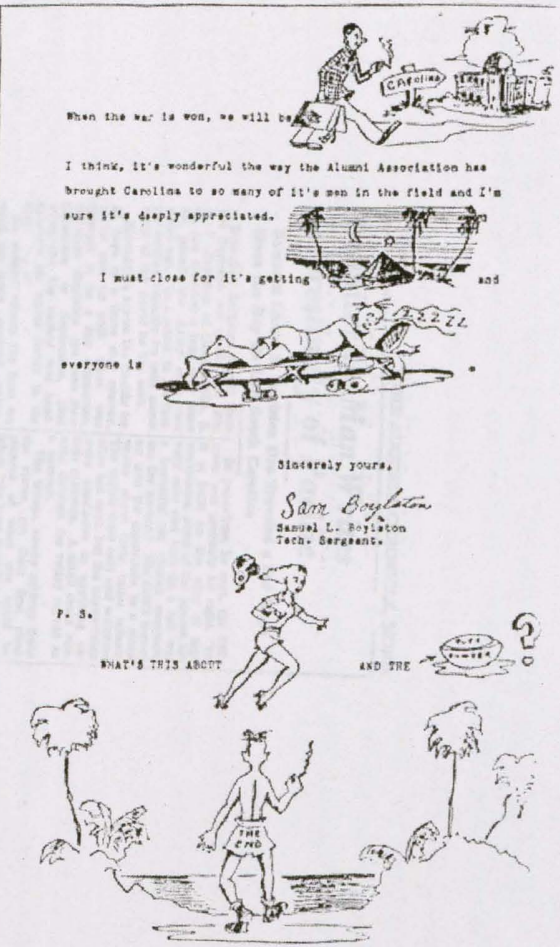
Issued by the University of South Carolina Alumni Association
RALPH LEWIS, '29, Executive Secretary and Alumni Editor

Annie Lee Young, '25A, '38G - - Asst. Editor

Men and women of Carolina, graduates and non-graduates are requested to send alumni news and their changing addresses to the Alumni Office University Campus, Columbia, South Carolina







Graniteville Man Writes Interestingly of Pacific

Sergeant Lionel S. Boylston Has Traveled a Far Ways Since the Day He Left South Carolina

Technical Sergeant Lionel Samuel Boylston, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Boylston of Graniteville, S. C., has traveled a long way since he joined the Army over two years ago. In a letter to his family written recently he tells something of the world he has seen.

Zig-zagging across the Pacific for 17 days in a three ship convoy, which met up with what was thought to be a Jap submarine, Sergeant Boylston got into New Caledonia in September, 1943 when the big harbor was headquarters for naval forces in the area.

He wrote: "From the boat we could see large coconut palms, coral beaches and high rising mountains with their heads in the clouds. . . The town of Noumea was quite a change from Frisco. . . This was a town that was prepared for war and the streets at that time were lined with trenches and air raid shelters. . . The place was crawling with soldiers from all over. Aussies in their funny hats and the New Zealanders."

Most of the people in the town, which is a French possession, spoke French, he found, but the town was full of natives, people with strange characteristics. He watched an interesting Tonganese wedding but after that stayed away from the town which lay under a haze of dust from heavy vehicles of the army and which, on closer acquaintance, proved to be "a smelly little town".

In peacetime, he says, the little town was probably all right, "for it is built on the edge of high mountains, some of the houses are very nice and high on a hill was a beautiful old church overlooking the harbor." His outfit moved up into the mountains to a small valley about forty miles inland. The nights were cold and welcome after hot days, but the heavy rains were conducive to anything except pleasure. A small creek running through the valley served as a bathtub.

The troops, newly arrived from the states, got their first close glimpse of what war could be when "the boys from the America and the 37th division were being evacuated, some with wounds, others with malaria and most of them just tired boys who had been up on the firing lines for months. We would sit around at night and listen to the boys tell of Guadalcanal and Munda airfield."

The outfit moved on to the New Hebrides, to Espiritu Santo, where they had their first air raid from a plane which had come and gone before they were all aware of what was happening. Thanksgiving Day came and Christmas followed and shortly after Sergeant Boylston went on to Guadalcanal, flying from there the 1,100 miles across the Coral Sea to Brisbane, Australia.

INTERESTING STORY

From there, the itinerary of the Graniteville soldier, who was with the 13th air force headquarters, reads like an Odessey of the South Seas. From Brisbane to Sidney, to Rockhampton and Townsville and over the water hops to Port Moresby, New Guinea, on to the Admiralties, to Hollandia and finally to Morotai.

"This was the fartherest outpost in the Southwest Pacific at that time. It was a rough hole with no roads and nothing but winding paths through the jungles. The island was never taken, they only set up a perimeter. The Japs came from the start and the last bomb fell on the little island June, 1945. We all had some close calls there and it was something different.

"You know I'm on Leyte and I have visited other islands in the Philippines. I was over at Samar and Palawan last March. It has been a long trip from Frisco and now that the time nears for my return. . . I can look back and see nothing has been lost and I don't think I shall come this way again."

Sergeant Boylston, who entered the service after three years at the University of South Carolina, has been in the service 29 months and expresses the hope that he may eat Christmas dinner this year at home.

Transporting and supplying the American forces in the vast Pacific was a logistical nightmare. Supplies were usually moved by sea, not only from the U. S., but between locations within the theaters. The distances involved were immense; 7,000 miles from San Francisco to New Caledonia; 1,500 miles from Brisbane to Guadalcanal. At the end of these long supply lines were no modern ports, like those in England, which could handle large tonnage. Most port facilities in the Pacific were primitive and often nonexistent, except for Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii.

To the average soldier, the most obvious result of the separate Army and Navy supply systems was a sort of "dual standard of living", particularly in rear areas. The Navy's "standard of living" seemed far higher than the Army's.

The entire progress of the war in the Pacific was keyed to the rate air bases could be developed in newly captured areas from which Allied planes could neutralize and isolate Japanese targets in the next objective area. One such step took place in June, 1943 when the Americans attacked Saipan in the Marianas. When a Japanese carrier task force attacked Admiral Mitscher's task force, the Americans destroyed most of the enemy planes. The great victory was called "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot". By June of 1944, the American planes and pilots were far superior to the Japanese.

The battle for Saipan finally ended on July 9, 1944 with over 14,000 Americans killed or wounded and about 30,000 Japanese dead. About 8,000 island noncombatants killed themselves. By late July, 1944, the Americans had taken Guam and Tinian. The capture of Guam provided an air base for the new American B-29s to begin attacking Japan.

Approximately, 1 million and a quarter Americans served in the Pacific during WWII. The war was fought in the tropics, that jungle-covered zone where rain is plentiful, heat and sweat constant, mud, insects, and decay and disease universal.

National Archives: Gen. MacArthur wades ashore at Leyte in the Philippines in Oct., 1944.

For the vast majority of U. S. servicemen, the war was likely a time of loneliness, physical discomfort, boredom, and fatigue, punctuated by occasional action and danger. Only about 40 to 45 percent of those serving in the Pacific saw no action at all.

Most servicemen lived in floorless tents, without screens or electric lights. Food came mainly from cans. Canned fruit juice was scarce, fresh fruit was rare. Fresh meat was almost nonexistent in most areas.

On October 18, 1944, American invasion forces were closing in on the Philippines. The convoys entered the channel leading to Leyte Gulf and the invasion beaches on the northeast coast of Leyte on October 20.

General MacArthur, standing on the bridge of the Nashville , could see Tacloban where he spent his first tour of duty as a young second lieutenant, fresh from West Point, forty-one years before. That afternoon, MacArthur, resplendent in freshly pressed khakis, field marshal's cap, sunglasses, and smoking a corncob pipe, waded ashore in knee-deep water. He stepped up to a radio transmitter mounted on a weapon carrier and spoke into a microphone: "People of the Philippines, I have returned! By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil".

A great naval Battle of Leyte Gulf was fought against the Japanese. The Americans fought off the attackers. During this battle, the first Kamikaze (divine wind) suicide attacks were launched by the Japanese. Though deadly, they only contributed to American willingness to employ the Atomic Bombs rather than confront an entire nation of Kamikazes in an invasion of Japan.

Now, Tech. Sgt. Sam Boylston wrote the following letter from Morotai on November 18, 1944.

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Tonight, I'm back on the job but everything is about caught up so I can get a letter off to you. It's been about three days since I've received any mail from home but one of these days it will come piling in.

The boys still keep me busy drawing them birthday cards and cartoon envelopes. I furnished about ten tonight and I enjoy doing them. Someone asked me once why I didn't charge some small fee for them, and I could very easily, but I figure it will give someone a laugh back there and I enjoy doing them and the boys appreciate them It doesn't take much of my time.

I have some pictures I want to paint, but I don't have much time to sit and draw some pictures as large as I like. So I will let it wait till some day when I have my tent fixed up and everything in order. Then , with nothing left to do, I shall paint. It's nice to have some hobby you can rely on when there's nothing to do. My art has made many a dull hour fly.

Well, this month is over half over and then we will begin to sweat out Christmas, but little good it will do over here. I guess we will have turkey for we had it last year. It doesn't seem like Christmas over here, although the packages will arrive. Maybe the next one, I will be home so I have to look forward to that.

I noticed my pineapples today and they are coming along nicely. It won't be long before I will be eating them. I found another plant that I didn't know was around and the pineapple was just about grown. The boys want to transplant them behind our

tent but I'm afraid they will die. I guess I will have to keep my eyes on them till they do get ready to eat. I want to paint a picture of one. It's red and the bush is very green. Some of them are small and some large. The bananas here are a littler larger than the ones on other islands. I will have to go out and find me a large bunch so they can get ripe. I've only eaten a few, but they are good.

Duke and Nagy are getting the boards together to make us a table so we can write. Tonight, they were fixing some kind of lamp and whether or not it will work remains to be seen. But, it will , in its own little way.

I sent my money order home in my last letter so I guess you have gotten it by now. It was $225. I will split my money orders up into three so each can be a Christmas present. I want Junior to buy himself a suit or something nice, Daddy can buy himself something nice and Mother, do the same. First, I wasn't going to tell you about it but just send the money orders, but I was afraid that you wouldn't take it, so I'm writing to tell you that I want each to buy something nice. I will send the money orders around the first of the month and they should reach you in time to get something before Christmas. You will have to write and tell me each thing you buy and this will make me very happy.

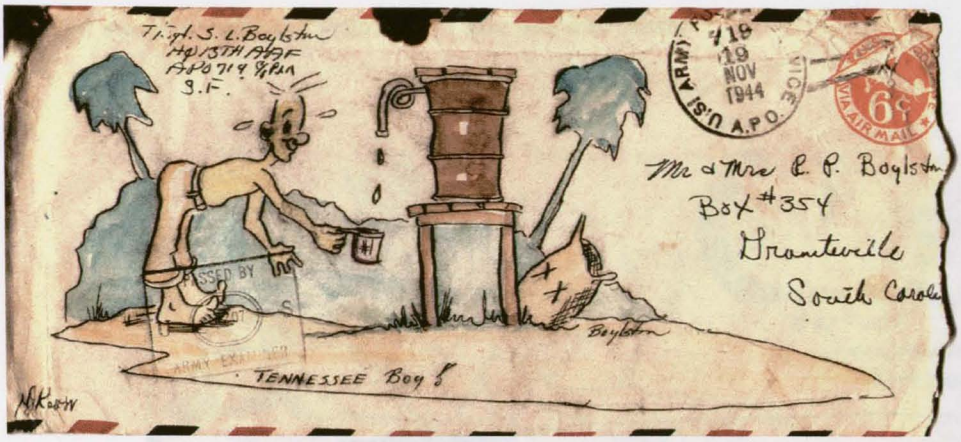
I still hear from Lemont and he likes England all right, or that is what I got from his letters. They are all written on V-Mail and usually consists of about ten lines at the most. It's just hello and goodbye. I answer him the same way with very little change in conversation. One of these days I'm going to write him a long letter and he will be surprised.

I received a letter from "Old Lee" and he has settled down to a nice comfortable seat on his boat. I think he likes it all right for there are plenty of spots that could be worse. It isn't bad where he is. He writes me about his duties and how he fishes. He also mentions the movies which become part of a man's every day life on these islands. I saw a very good movie last night. It was "Dragon Seed". It was the only movie I've seen since I've been here that was worth seeing. I had seen most of them on other islands.
I will have to write Papa a letter tonight so I will have to close. I would like to know when you receive the pictures, for I sent them about two months ago. They should reach you sometime soon.

It's about time that Roy drops the old boy a line or two. He has probably received some news or good gossip that he could pass my way.

That's all for tonight so till again soon.

All my love,
Lionel



Sam wrote the following letter home on Thanksgiving Day, 1944.

Dear Family,

Today, it's Thanksgiving and although I'm in far off lands, I have plenty to be thankful for.

I hear we have turkey for dinner so that will certainly be nice. The cooks will probably fix it up so it will last until Christmas, then we eat it again.

I'm off this morning. Rifkin is working. I will work this afternoon so he can have a few spare moments. We let the other boys have the day off so it would be more like a holiday.

Duke and Nagy have built the table and chairs. Duke received a jar of Maxwell House Coffee and it certainly tasted good last night. I guess my things will be coming soon and we can all eat. I hope nothing will happen to them.

My pipe certainly is a fine one and I enjoy smoking it. The others should arrive soon. I still have plenty of tobacco. They issued us some Luckies this week, so I have a few good cigarettes, now.

I had a nice long letter from Buddy and he was home again. He certainly is a lucky..... . He told me about Gussie. I hope he wasn't seriously hurt.

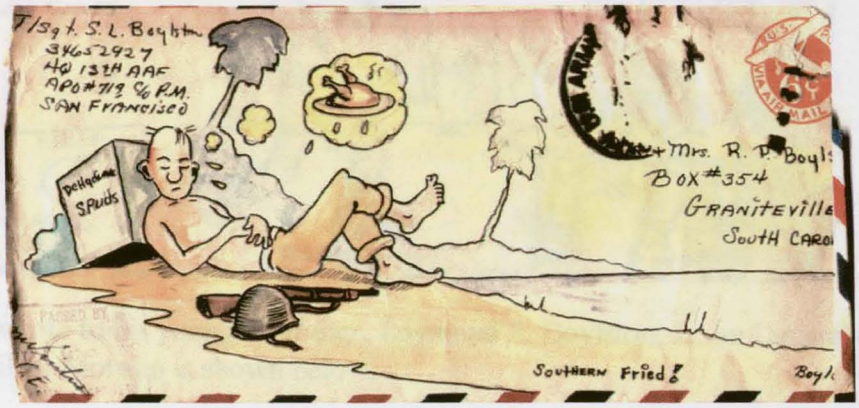
I'm glad Junior is doing well in his work. I guess, he enjoys his art classes, but he shouldn't let it interfere with his lessons.

I should write Papa and Mama today. Probably will this afternoon. I don't think there will be much work. I know they miss Patsy , for having her around made everything cheerful.

I must close now and shave, take a shower, for the boys will be coming for dinner. I didn't eat breakfast but will certainly have my fill this noon.

Tell everyone hello and write soon. I love you very dearly.

Your son,
Lionel



Sam wrote the following letter home from the Admiralty Islands in November, 1944.

Dear Mother, Daddy and Junior,

I've been very busy for the past few days and really haven't had much time to write, but today I'm taking time out to answer a few letters.

I know Ida is proud of her boy and I'm sure he will be a fine little fellow. Tell her I'm very happy for the both of them.

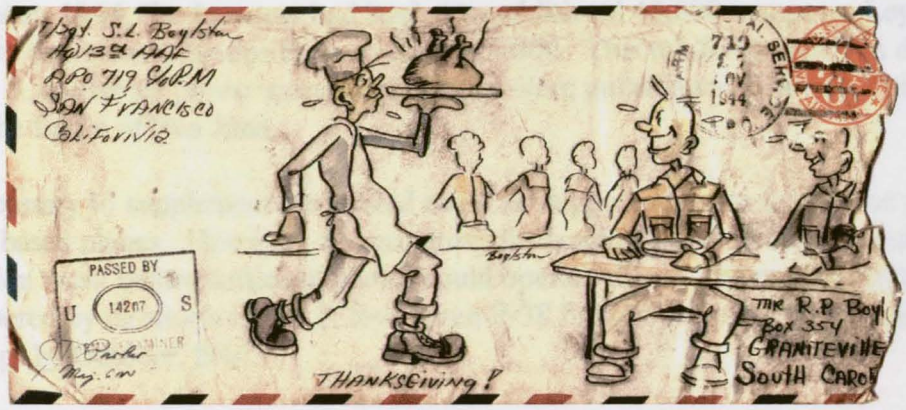
I thought Leon was on his way but in today's letters you said he was still in Frisco. It's a pretty good chance we might see each other whenever he comes over here.

I'll be expecting the box sometime soon and the pipes. Today, I sent home my picture, I was offered five dollars for it by two different officers but I would rather keep it. Some of the pictures were made up and others were scenes I've seen. When I return, I can tell you more about them.

Daddy can send me some more tubes of yellow water color, also red, burnt sierra and yellow orchid.

Junior should get his Jap cigarettes soon and did you and Mama get the rug, yet?

Love to all,
Lionel



A letter Sam wrote to his younger brother, Raymond P. Boylston, Jr. on December 3, 1944, while still at Morotai is shown below.

Dear Brother,

Well, I still have a few minutes, so I will write you a note. It's been quite awhile since I've heard from you.

We are about caught up with our work and things are getting quiet and peaceful again. My tent needs a few improvements but I will take care of that in due time.

I found some sugar cane and its just like the ones you find in the States. I sat down and chewed a stalk. I have a big pineapple that is ripening and will eat it soon.

Nagy and Duke still fix the coffee, tea and cocoa for our midnight snack. Our food supply is getting low but Christmas packages will restock it.

I'm sending you a money order for $25 and you can buy a Christmas present. Maybe you can get a suit or something nice. Write and tell me what you get. I'm very proud of your last marks in school. Just keep up the good work.

Tell everybody hello and write.

Love to all,
Lionel

By December, 1944, the Japanese had landed an additional 45,000 troops on Leyte, bringing the total enemy troops there to about 65,000. This reinforcement was due to a lack of U. S. carrier air power since most carriers were pulled away from the Philippines to aid in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

It was necessary to supplement the limited naval air support at Leyte as soon as possible with land based planes. However, the primitive dirt landing strips on Leyte required major construction work before sufficient planes could operate there. The construction work was hampered by monsoon rains. A few dozen P-38 fighters were operating from the Leyte strips by October, 1944.

The increasing Japanese air threat in the Philippines brought Admiral Halsey back and his carrier planes immediately began to take their toll of enemy planes and ships. Japanese convoys attempting to reinforce Leyte were attacked by waves of Army Air Force and Marine planes. One convoy sought shelter in San Isidro harbor on the northwest tip of Leyte and never reached their destination.

During this period, 13th Air Force Liberators flying from Morotai were striking Japanese supply dumps, warehouses, radio stations, defense guns, and seaplane bases in the Philippines. The 13th Air Force performed the lion's share of the destruction of Japanese bases in the Philippines.

Back at the 13th Air Force home bases, such as Morotai, life continued as usual. Most airmen approached mess halls with skepticism. A typical menu might be beef stew and vegetables, potatoes, cole slaw, fresh rolls and peanut butter. However, great the menu sounded, it wasn't near so great. The stew and vegetables were C-ration, a thick soup-like concoction; the potatoes were soggy fried strings and the cole slaw strictly ersatz. C-rations were supplemented by fresh and frozen foods whenever possible.

Sam sent this letter home Christmas, 1944.

Netherlands East Indies
December 25, 1944

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Today, is Christmas and it isn't like the last Christmas which I spent on Santo, it was much nicer there and I will always have good memories of that place. Mrs. Roosevelt refers to it as the "Coney Island" of the Pacific but it wasn't quite that good. I guess, it was just a clean island which was something or is something in this Pacific. So much for the days of the past. This is a nice place but still needs plenty of improvements which could make things better. M/Sgt. Rifkin worked this morning while I was enjoying the comforts of well earned sleep, so now, I am taking over so the old boy can get a little "shut eye" and be in the best condition for the feast tonight. I hear we have turkey and some of the trimmings to go with it. I could use a good meal for it's been quite a while since I've had one. Last night, we ate the sandwich spread and salad dressings with our fish and the cheese, also, a course of cake and a few more things that we have been saving for such an event. The night

proved interesting in more ways than one. We were issued two bottles of beer, otherwise it was a dry Christmas, although some of the boys managed to pull some old cherished bottles out of their "B" bags that have been saved for such an occasion. It doesn't seem like Christmas much this year, not even as much as it did last year but I will make the most of it. Maybe next year, this time, I will be back in the states and enjoying the old fashioned Christmas which I'm accustomed to.

The Christmas packages haven't arrived but they will reach here sometime in the near future. I was very lucky to have received as many as I have for some of the fellows haven't received any as yet. They are very disappointed and I feel sorry for them. I am very proud of my watch and the billfold and all the nice things that I have received and from what I have heard I should have more on the way. Vincent sent about everything that was in arms reach and it was a package filled with surprises. It was very thoughtful of him not to forget an old employee and whether or not some items were placed there with sincere wishes or just for the joke; They brought a smile to my face and in my imagination I could see him putting the things in the little box. I told him that I gave the boys a sales talk in the behalf of the Carter's Liver Pill Co. and could have sold a gross if they had been available, but due to the war, I had only received the one box, that I would have to keep it myself. Then I added, "We must keep regular, you know".

I am glad that all is going well at home and everyone is very busy with their jobs. A busy person is always happy for he doesn't have the time to sit and worry about the many troubles that are pushed aside because there isn't time to sit and ponder over spilt milk. Over here, I have time to sit and wonder or build little air castles for future reference, some will be filed away and someday come to be a reality and others will have the misfortune to have only been a dream and die a "Dreams life". I have met many people in this army and as we all know, they come from all walks of life and from these people that become part of my every day over here and in the army, I have learned many things. I remember one character, self educated and could be anyone, but before the army had pulled his lucky or unlucky number, he had spent his life a wanderer or sometimes may have been classed as a "hobo", but during this time refers to this as some of his happiest times. His father was a judge and his mother from a long line of church workers and preachers. He was a writer and had some of his things published and even in the army wrote stories or accounts of his many experiences which he has encountered. He was already over seas two years when I met him and that was long ago. Since that time he has been chosen to rotate to the Continental United States. He had thirty three months in the islands and had that "Too Long" look on his face. From this rare individual, I learned many things and listened to his interesting stories. He said once, " I shall never be a rich man or shall I be a poor man, but I shall be happy". I always liked that. Someday, I shall read a book written by him for I know that he will write one or maybe more. He could sit and write things and they moved merrily along, as if someone was painting you a picture. He was truly a character and I will always remember him. We sent him a Christmas card from all the boys, for they all knew him and enjoyed working with him. He was always full of jokes and long yarns about his travels throughout the U.S. and part of South America. He was full of the unexpected. I use to sit, while he would type on his little beat up typewriter, and draw his picture. He would send them home to his folks and they would get quite a laugh from some of the cartoons. He always said I made him look as if he could last forever over here in the tropics and didn't put that "Too Long" look on his face.

I should think you would have heard from Bish by now. He can't be having that much fun, or maybe he can. I will have to write him and get him going. We haven't heard from him since his departure. He is probably having the time of his life and who wouldn't after being in this uncivilized part of the world for thirty-three months. Col. Frese should write soon also.

Well, I must stop and get some work done so I can take off and enjoy this Christmas dinner tonight. I miss you all very much and maybe this thing won't last too much longer and we can all be together again.

My love to all,
Your son,
Lionel

P S.
Enclosing a Christmas greeting from the General to all of us.

P. S. Jr., I received 3 letters !

Sam sent another letter home from Morotai on January 3, 1945.

Dear Family,

Well, I'm off today and fixing up around the tent. Duke and Nagy have built the frame and it's very nice now. Duke built some shelves and today I wanted to haul coral for the floor but couldn't get the jeep and trailer.

Well, I still haven't received all the packages but they are coming in one at the time. I received the water colors, pipe, billfold, watch, can goods, etc. No cakes from home as yet. I received the cake , chicken and the box Ruby sent me, but I think some things haven't arrived. The chicken Mama sent was delicious. I would like about three more like that. We warmed it up on our stove and boy, was it good! We ate everything including the bones.

I haven't heard from Junior in quite a while. I guess he has forgotten all about me over here.

Uncle Wyatt sent me some fishing tackle and hooks so I will have to give them a try. Aunt Sara sent the shower shoes and believe it or not, they fit! They are big enough to go rowing in.

When the chow isn't good, we eat here at the tent which is quite often. We certainly have a good stock of food supplies. All kinds of fresh meat, soups, jelly, and many other things. We just get the stove out and whip something up. Duke does most of the cooking.

Daddy was asking about Duke and Nagy. Well, Nagy and I were at Camp Grant together and have been together all the time overseas. Duke came over with us on the same shipment. Rifkin came about 4 months before I did. We have all been together since we were in the outfit.

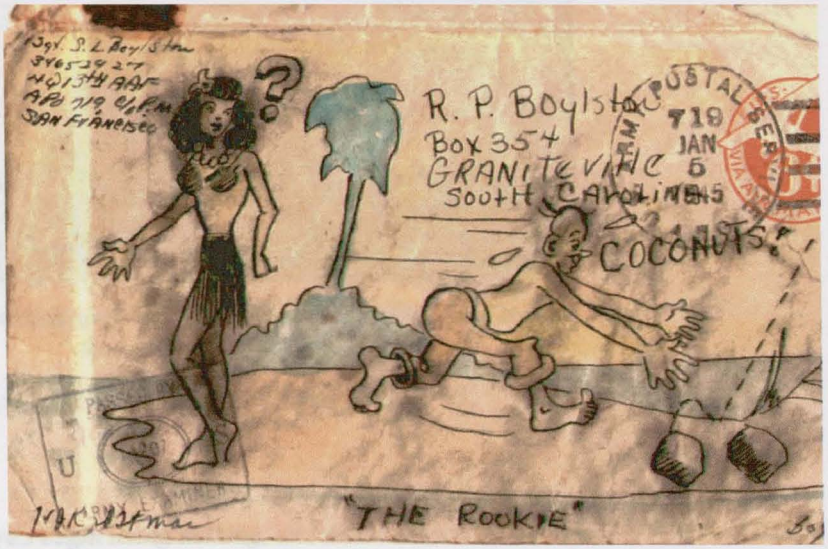
Well, I received a letter from Leon and he isn't getting much mail. Immediately, I wrote him all the news which I knew. I may get to see him, but I'm not sure. I have to arrange things, first.

Well, I must close now and I hope everyone is well. Don't forget to let me know if Junior received the $25 for Christmas. I'm sending a money order for $100.

My love to all,

Your son,
Lionel

The Russians and other Allied forces in Europe were closing in on Germany in early 1945. Warsaw, Poland was taken by the Russian Army in January. By April, the Russians reached the suburbs of Berlin. That same month the Americans and Russians met at Torgua on the Elbe River. Early May, Berlin fell to the Russians, and Germany surrendered to the Allies.



Those on the home front celebrated the defeat of Germany. However, everyone realized that the war would not be over until Japan was defeated. The bloody battle in the Pacific was continuing.

National Archives: Flag raising on Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945. Photo by Joe Rosenthal.

Sam wrote the following letter from Morotai on February 18, 1945.

Dear Family,

I have a few minutes before I begin doing nothing, so I will write you a note this morning. I wrote last night but I don't seem to find the letter.

Last night, I walked through the mud to a movie. I had already seen the picture but I thought I might as well enjoy it again. They really mess things up- changed the movie to another I had seen so I went back to the tent. All the boys were there except Nagy and he is stuck somewhere with transportation problems. He should be back soon.

I received a letter from Merial Black and it was the first I had received in months.

I am busy fixing cartoon envelopes. I did about 17 the other day but now I'm out of ink. It's something we can't get on this island, so if you can get a couple bottles, I can use it, Higgins India black ink. Be sure and pack it good.

I see I haven't received all my Christmas packages and I should be getting more shower shoes. Duke hasn't received all his so maybe they will get here.

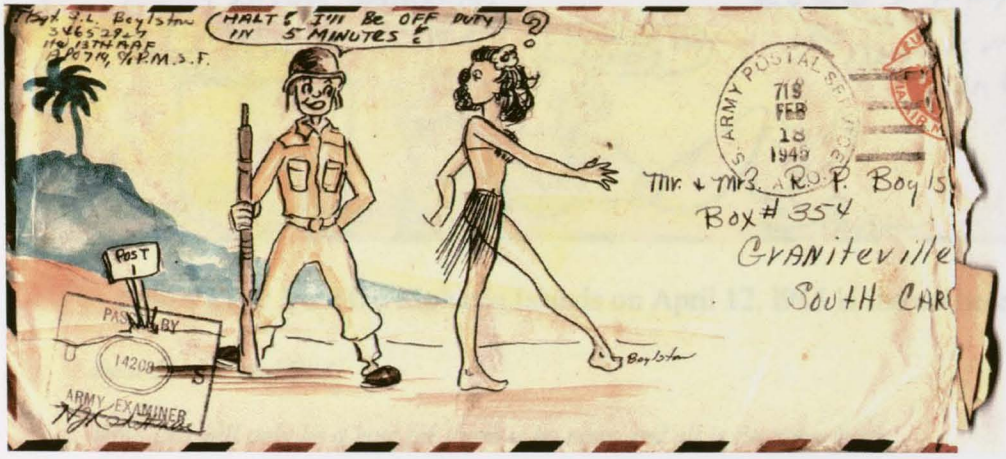
Tell Junior, I said to stop fooling around and do some studying. Another thing is, he should try and do better with his handwriting. If he doesn't watch himself, he will have a scratchy hand all his life. It only takes practice. I should do the same, but I write too fast.

Its been very dull around here and I'm really tired of this place. Rifkin was combing his hair the other morning and a coconut hit him square on the head. Well, I thought it would develop into something exciting but the coconut merely bounced off and Rif had a bump on his head. The day continued as always. He has 23 months overseas and it's a little late to be taking chances like that.

I must close now, but I shall write again soon..

Love to all-
Your Son,
Lionel

On February 23, 1945, Sam sent the following letter home to his folks.



Dear Folks,

I have a few minutes this morning, so I shall write , although I don't promise a long letter.

Yesterday, I was off and spent the morning painting. I did a very nice little water color. It only shows, if I take my time and settle down, I can do a few things that are nice. I'm saving most of my good paper for the next place. At noon, I had two natives posing and I did fast sketches of them. I painted the pictures after they had gone and they came by this morning. I showed them their pictures. You should have seen them. One took his hat off and showed the other how his hair looked. He certainly enjoyed it. Now, the rest of them want me to paint their picture at noon. It's pretty good to get them to do the posing and when I put them in a position, they never move. I know they get tired but I haven't learned their language enough to have them tell me.

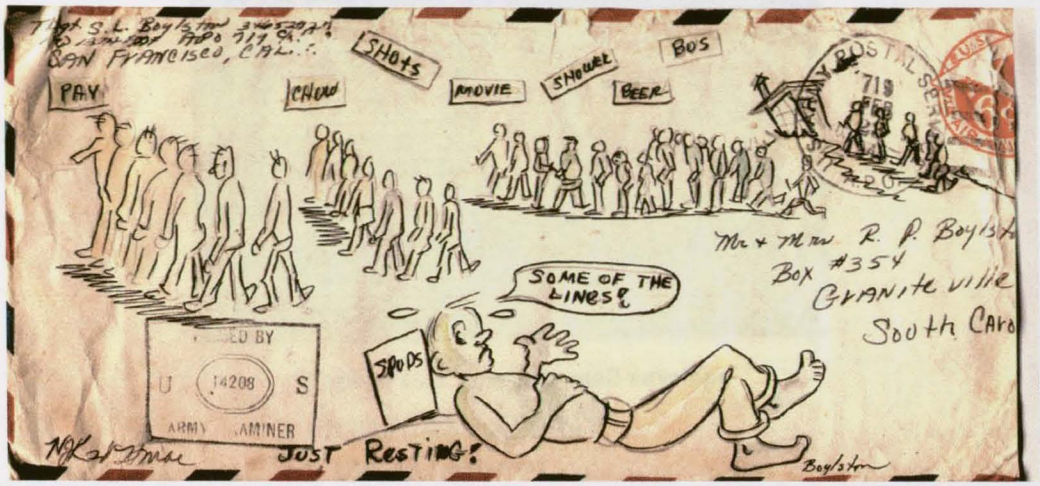
Nagy still hasn't returned and we look for him any day now. I know he will have plenty to tell.

I still haven't received the package with the shower shoes, socks, etc. I guess it will arrive before next Christmas. Duke is missing some of his.

I meant to tell you- not to send cigarettes for they won't keep. They don't put cellophane on them and the damp weather ruins them.

Everybody here is just fine except Rif. We were doing a little moving and he hurt his back lifting a case. He walks around all bent over. We kid the life out of him. All is about the same and we are having plenty of rain. I will have to close. Write soon.

Love to all, Lionel



Sam's letter from the Molucca Islands on April 12, 1945 is shown here.

Dear Mother and Dad,

Well, this will only be a note for there is no news and all is the same here.

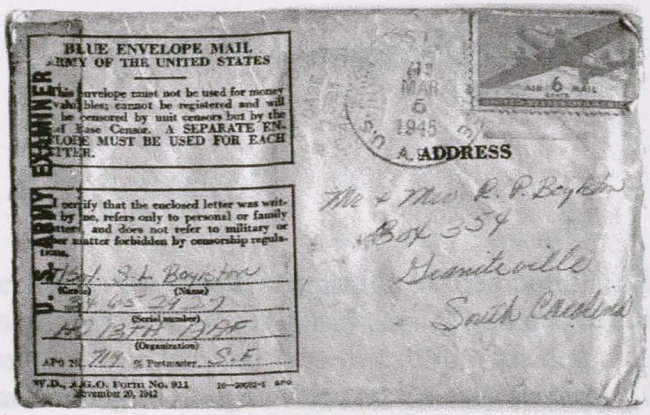
I spent yesterday, painting a church which I saw in the Philippines. I will send all my pictures soon. I did this one in oils that a Captain let me have.

Rifkin bought a radio and we have lights in our tent. We pick up Tokyo, Berlin, the U. S. A., and many others. We also get some local stations.

The war seems to be moving very nicely and maybe it will end soon. This is only a note. I'm sending a money order for $100.

Love to all,

Lionel



Typical U.S. Army air mail envelope

A FIGHTERS LAMENT

(Author Unknown)

I am sitting here thinking
Of things I left behind
And I'd like to put In writing
What is running through my mind.

We have dug a million ditches
And have cleared 10 miles of ground,
We have drunk our beer and whisky
In every honky-tonk in town
But there is one consolation,
Gather round while I tell:
"When we die we'll go to heaven,
For we have done our stretch in Hell"

We have built a million kitchens,
For the cooks to burn our beans;
We have stood a million guard mounts,
And we have cleaned the camp latrines
We have washed a million spuds,
And killed a million snakes and ants
That have tried to steal our grub.
When our work on earth is ended,
Then our friends on earth will tell;
"When they died they went to Heaven,
For they've done their stretch in Hell."

When the final taps have sounded,
When we lay aside life's cares,
When we stand our last inspection
On those shining golden stairs,
The angels will welcome us,
Their golden harps will play;
And we draw a million canteen checks
And spend them in a day.
It is there we will hear St. Peter
Tell us loudly with a yell:
"Take a seat, you boys from the jungle,
For you've done your stretch in Hell.

13TH AAF COMMENDATIONS

28 April 1945

TO: COMGEN 13TH AIR FORCE

With the announcement of the virtual completion of the South Pacific campaign, except for mopping up and starving out operations, I can tell you and tell the world that no greater fighting team has ever been put together. From the desperate days of Guadalcanal, to the smooth steam-rolling of Bougainville and the easy seizure of Green and Emirau all U. S. and Allied services put aside every consideration but the one goal of wiping out Japs. As you progressed, your techniques and teamwork improved until at last ground, amphibian, sea and air forces were working as one beautiful piece of precision machinery that crushed and baffled our hated enemy in every encounter. Your resourcefulness, tireless ingenuity, cooperation and indomitable fighting spirit from a battle pattern that will everywhere be an inspiration. A great measure of the credit for the sky-blazing, sea-sweeping, jungle-smashing of the combat forces goes to the construction gangs and service organizations that bulldozed bases out of the jungle and brought up the beans and bullets and supplies. You never stopped moving forward and the Japs never could get set to launch a sustained counter attack. You beat them wherever you found them and never stopped looking for them and tearing into them. Well done!

HALSEY
COMGENSOPAC

On April 26, 1945, Sam wrote the following letter giving a good description of life on a South Pacific jungle island.

Dear Mother, Dad and Junior,

Well, it's about time that I got a letter off to you for I haven't written in a couple days. There has been no news and I have been rather busy so I just write when I find the time.

Tonight its another one of those nights when the old moon comes out in all its glory and its as bright as day outside. Full moon in the tropics is something that one can never visualize until he or she has seen it and then as you see it month after month you lose the appreciation, but tonight this is my twentieth full moon overseas and I noticed it. From here, I can see the silver lining on the coconut palms and see the moon shining through the leaves.

It's quiet now and just a little breeze blowing from the sea. It's nice. The wind has been blowing rather hard all day but tonight it is just right. I can hear the crickets singing their little tunes but over here they sound more like a telegraph operator but I guess, they had to change over to the all out effort. In the distance, I can hear the generator humming away and the music coming from the movie. I didn't go tonight

for I had seen it three times already and enjoyed all three. Things happen like that over here.

Rifkin is busy writing his letters and fighting the many jungle insects that cling to the lights. It's a losing battle and I gave up long ago.

I can hear the people laughing over at the movie and I remember the scene- I laughed too.

I can hear some kind of bird chattering away in the bush and it's probably the one that wakes me at some ungodly hour each night. He also has friends that like to argue but I can't understand why they pick the nights to do their gossiping. Reminds me of a bunch of women at a bridge party, but I imagine the bridge party would be more interesting.

Some of my nearby tent mates have a radio going, but they will give up for it's difficult to find a station, there are about three others on the same spot. Rifkin's radio is on the blink at the present, but we have our agents working on the problem and maybe we will join the neighbors in getting nothing soon.

When I finish this letter, I will walk back to the tent, pull down the mosquito bar and end this day. I know the path to the tent so well I could almost go there blindfolded. I live on the outskirts of Skunk Hollow which is a very respectable neighborhood. The only difficulties is when it rains, Skunk Hollow fills with water and I'm forced to take the highland route to my tent. So goes life on this little rock in the Pacific.

Rifkin is going on a trip and Duke departed just a few days ago so that leaves me holding the tent down all alone. I will be busy so I guess I will make it all right. The boys in the next tent practically live in our tent so there will be plenty still going on. The old hen will continue to lay her daily quota of one egg and Boylston will continue to eat it each morning. What a wonderful hen! She started laying in the right time for the food hasn't been up to par for quite some time. We were forced to fall upon our stores which saved the day. Duke received a small frying pan and we have a small gas stove so we cooked buckwheat cakes which he received from home and also with maple syrup. I led the race with a grand total of five buckwheat cakes and Duke came in second.

I received a package but the only thing that I could salvage was one jar of peanut butter. The candy was a total loss. I don't think it pays to send candy over for it either melts or gets stale. Send things that are packed in jars or cans for its a long trip over here and sometimes they are a long time coming over. Some of the fellows are still getting Christmas packages which were mailed last September or October. Don't send any more peanut butter for I can get that. Send things that I can't get like mayonnaise, sandwich spread, fish, meat sauce, soups, etc.

I spent the day with Ficklin Foy and we went fishing but didn't get but one small one. We would have had plenty but our plan didn't work. He said that he will have some this week and he will give me a ring to come down. Some fresh fish would certainly taste good now for I have just about forgotten what they taste like.

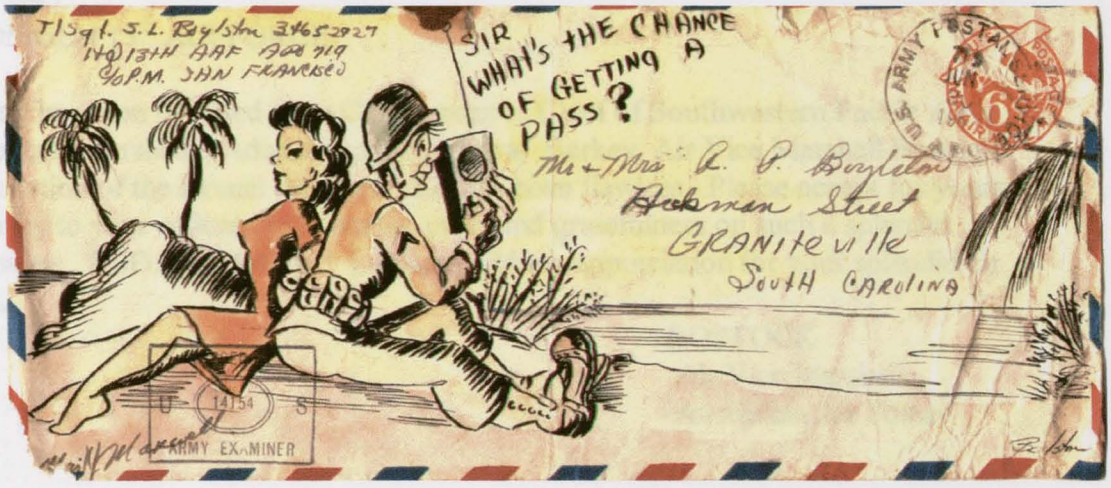
I received a nice letter from Old Lee and he is fine. He expected me down but I don't think I will be able to make it. For with Rifkin gone on the trip, I will be busy running the place.

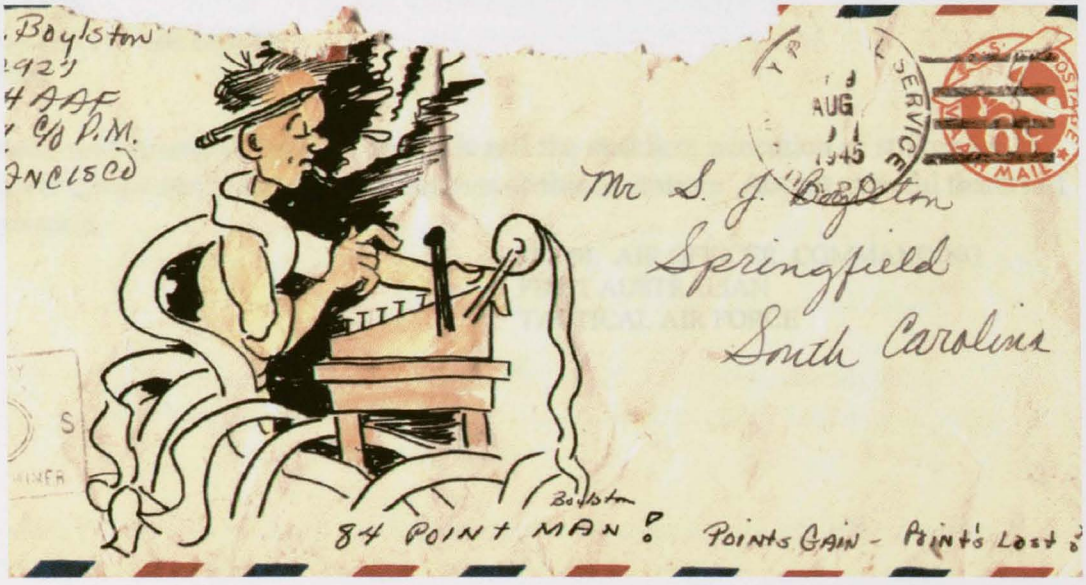
I also received a letter from W. R. Brodie and he is at one of the places which I stopped while in New Guinea. He has been overseas about as long as Ficklin which is 38 months.

Well, the war in Europe looks very good and maybe it will end sometime in the near future. I think, maybe I will have a better chance of getting home then. I'll just have to wait and see.

That just about covers everything for tonight's schedule and I will have to sign off time another time. Say hello to everyone for me.

Love to all,
Lionel





Sam Boylston's letter to his grandfather Samuel Joseph Boylston of Springfield, S.C.

Although there had been some wild celebrating when Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, most Americans had the sobering realization that the war in the Pacific against Japan was continuing. However, there was no inhibitions on August 15,1945 when the

Japanese surrendered. Whistles blew, church bells rang out and crowds filled the streets of practically all villages, towns and cities. It was like New Year's Eve. Workers left their jobs, strangers embraced and kissed. The bars overflowed and people danced in the streets. Churches held special services for people to pray and give thanks for victory and, much more, for peace.

Back home, we anxiously awaited the speedy return of Sam and his friends from the South Pacific. Local citizens began planning the homecoming festivities. But, for the time being, all we could do was wait.

13 June 1945
TO: COMGEN 13th AIR FORCE

Following has been received from Commander in Chief of Southwestern Pacific Area: "For General Morshead, Admiral Royal, Admiral Berkey, Air Vice Marshall Bostock. The Execution of the Brunei Bay operation has been flawless. Please accept for yourself and convey to your officers and men the pride and gratefulness on such a splendid performance. SGD. MacArthur." I wish to add my appreciation for your splendid air support.

BOSTOCK
Air Vice Marshall
Australian Air Forces

15 July, 1945
TO: COMGEN 13th AIR FORCE
BAIKPAPA

Your ready willingness to fulfill all demands and the excellent execution of strikes has in my opinion been a major factor in the success of this operation. Accept grateful thanks of this command.

FROM: AIR OFFICER, COMMANDING
FIRST AUSTRALIAN
TACTICAL AIR FORCE

PHILIPPINES

Sam moved with the 13th Air Force Headquarters to Leyte in the Philippines about August, 1945. The area of the 13th Headquarters was located near the little village of Tulosa, a former camp site of the Far East Air Force. Office buildings vacated by the Far East Air Force were used. The base faced San Pablo Island in the distance. The enlisted men lived farther back from the beach in pyramidal tents with wooden floors and supporting frames.

The advance of the headquarters from Morotai to Leyte lifted the spirits of the airmen for they knew that victory was one step closer. Also, the move to Leyte meant contact with civilization after living in the jungle for over two years.

For the 13th Air Force, the ultimate fall of Manila meant the end of a series of campaigns which began in the Solomon Islands, in 1942, and continued for two and a half years. The 13th had bombed Nichols and Nielson Fields near Manila Bay, and disrupted Japanese ground installations by fighter strikes in support of Army troops in central Luzon. But, the outstanding contribution of the 13th, in the long struggle to drive the Japanese from the Philippines, was made over Rabaul near the end of 1943 and early 1944, and in the Philippines beginning in October, 1944.

On February 16, 1945, the Americans began bombing Iwo Jima and attacking it with battleships. The invasion came a few days later. After three bloody days of fighting, the Marines reached the top of Mount Suribachi. There the famous flag raising photograph was taken by Joe Rosenthal. This best known photo of the Pacific war, won the Pulitzer Prize, and inspired the giant bronze monument to the Marine Corps near Arlington Cemetery near Washington.

The Marines lost 6,821 killed and 20,000 wounded on Iwo Jima. Nineteen of the twenty-four original battalion commanders who landed on the island were killed or wounded. The 21,000 Japanese defenders died almost to a man. This was the first time the Japanese had inflicted greater casualties on the American invaders than they suffered. This bloody battle gave the Americans a view of what would come with the invasion of Japan.

Iwo Jima became an intermediate landing point for B-29's attacking the Japanese homeland. By the end of the war 2,400 planes had made emergency landings at Iwo Jima.

Twenty-seven Marines and naval medical corpsmen won the Medal of Honor at Iwo Jima, many posthumously.

On April 1, l945, American invasion forces struck Okinawa and by June 21, all organized resistance on the island had ended. It was a bloody battle with 7,000 Americans including General Buckner losing their lives. About 5,000 navy personnel died and 5,000 wounded. The Japanese lost 70,000 troops and 80,000 civilians.

By early June, 1945, the six most important industrial cities in Japan including Tokyo, Nagoya, Kobe, Osaka, Yokohama, and Kawasaki had been devastated by B-29 air attacks.

In the early morning hour of July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was successfully detonated at Alamogordo Air Force Base in the New Mexico desert. President Harry S. Truman, who succeeded President Roosevelt, received the news about the successful bomb test while he was attending the Potsdam Conference.

Sam wrote this letter from the Philippines in July,1945.

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Well, there is no news and everything is fine with the exception of the rainy season.

The food is still very good ...It's the first time we have eaten like this, since I've been overseas-twenty three months. Hope it continues!

I received letters from all including Junior. I enjoyed them very much.

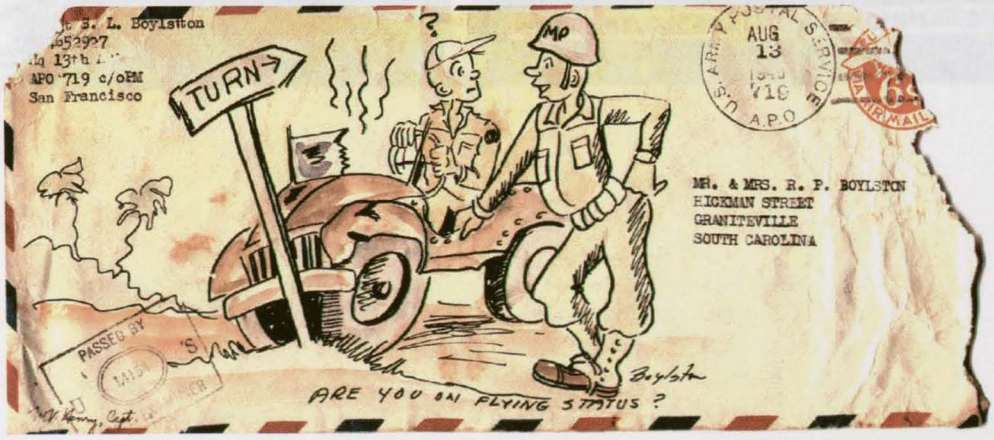
I was sorry to hear about Papa and I will write them a letter soon. I always write when I have time.

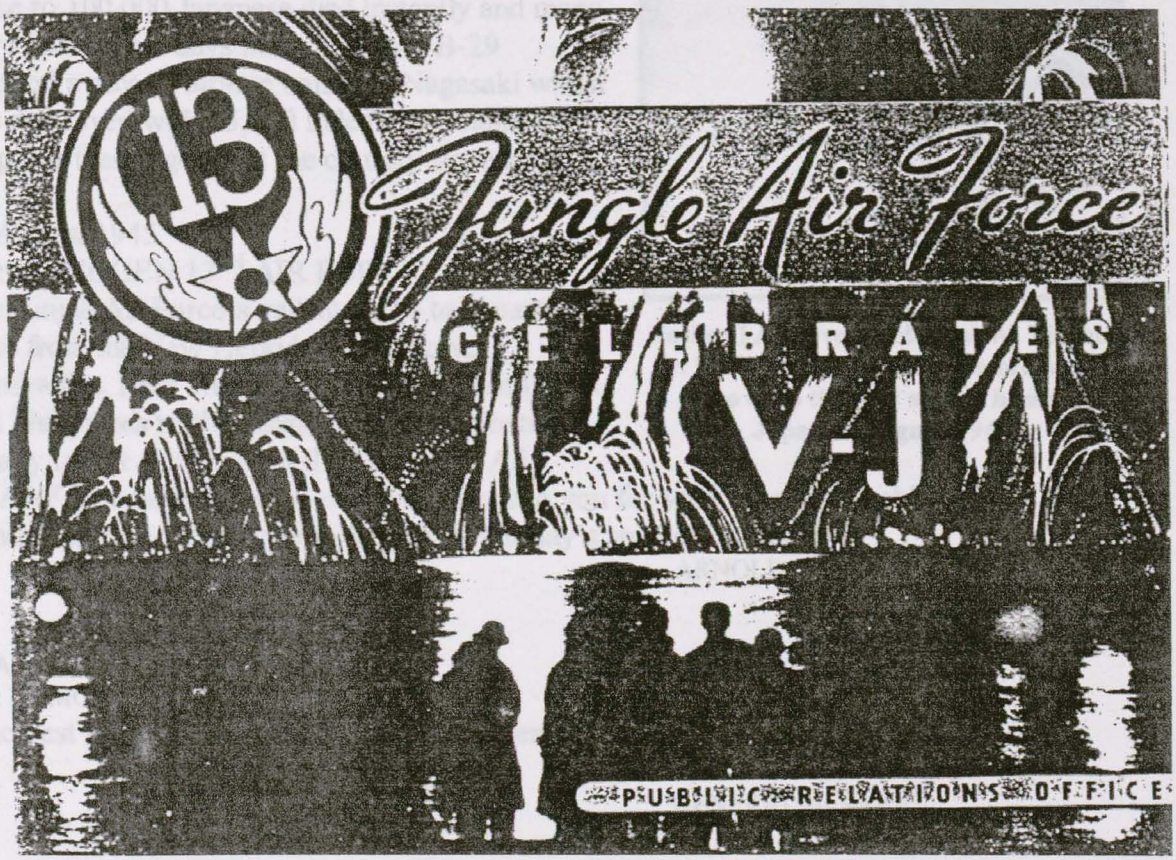
I've been busy drawing pictures again and Duke has another anniversary coming up so I have to fix him a card.

Duke gave me a set of pictures which were taken quite some time ago. Maybe you will like them.

I must close for now but I shall write again soon. Say hello to everyone.

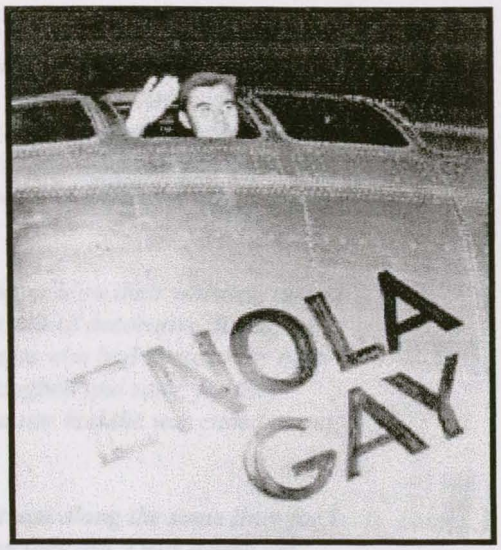
Love to all,
Lionel




13
Jungle Air Force
CELEBRATES
V-J
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

VICTORY

On August 6, 1945, three American B-29's appeared over Hiroshima, Japan a little after eight in the morning. At 8:15 a.m., the Enola Gay, piloted by Colonel Tibits, released the atomic bomb. Forty-five seconds later, most of Hiroshima disappeared in a searing flash of heat and light. Close to 100,000 Japanese died instantly and many more later. Two days later, a second B-29 dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki which was destroyed with 35,000 killed. The Japanese Emperor then urged that the country surrender.



National Archives: Col. Paul W. Tibbets, Jr. in the Enola Gay B-29 before taking off to drop the first atomic bomb on Japan in August, 1945.

21 August 1945
TO: COMOGEN 13TH AIR FORCE
The Jungle Air Force's gallant battle to clear the skies from the New Hebrides, Solomons, Admiralties, New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies and Philippines to the Asiatic coast contributed greatly to our victory over the Japanese. All USAAF join me in heartiest congratulations to you for your illustrious achievements and fighting spirit, to which we so largely owe today's splendid triumph.

ARNOLD

22 August 1945
TO: COMGEN 13TH AIR FORCE
Sincerest personal congratulations magnificent repeat magnificent victory.

GENERAL HERRING

Sam wrote a letter from the Philippines in August 11,1945.

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Today could have been a very big day in history or a very happy day in my life if they accept that Japan wants to surrender, but I have my doubts that they will accept. For unconditional surrender doesn't mean any providing for the "little man on a white horse" and I think they will give them another chance to think it over and say they really meant "Unconditional Surrender". There is still the chance that they may surrender for the Emperor is only an idol and the Army, Navy and about five big families rule the entire country and under the terms that we offered we could break them forever. It remains a question of whether Washington and the Allies think the Emperor should remain in his present status or be condemned as a war criminal. I'm sure there were plenty of pros and cons on the question and it still remains to see the final outcome.

The war could end today or it can last a while longer but it can be said that the end is now in sight and it shouldn't take much longer, no matter what the decision may be.

Leon and some of his friends were down last night for a few drinks and spent the afternoon and evening talking about old times. He doesn't know when he will get out of this place for he isn't on the boat anymore. We all enjoyed the news as it came in last night for it did show that the Japs are beginning to weaken and it is only a matter of time. Lots of the fellows celebrated the news as if the war was over but I couldn't see it that way. It will be over when they sign the peace and American troops are in Japan.

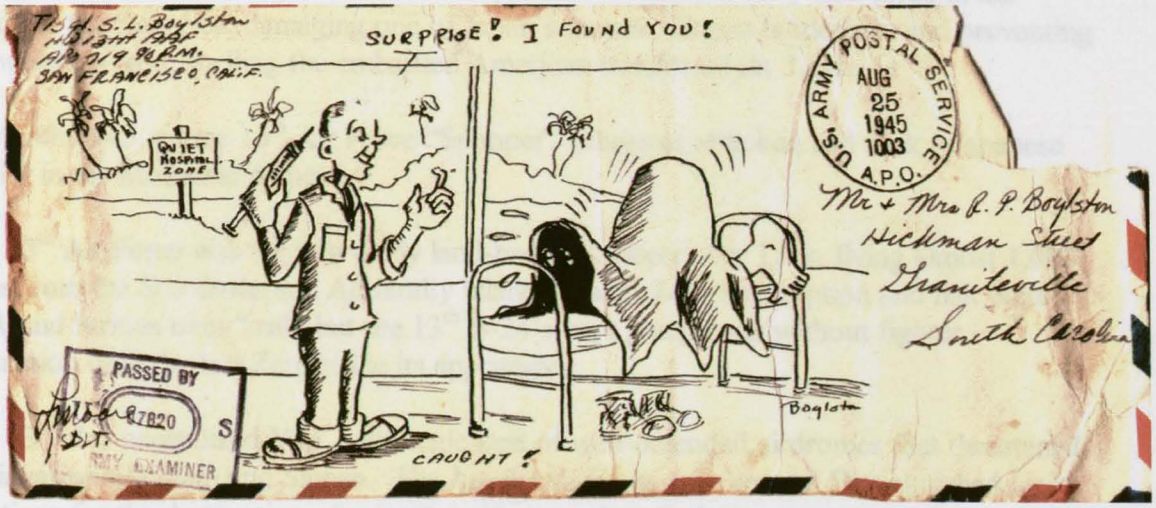
Last night, when the news came in, the ships in the harbor blew their whistles, turned on their lights and shot flares, rockets, and all other kinds of decorative display. It was truly a sight never to be forgotten and all the fellows who had sweated the news out on many islands in the lonesome Pacific smiled, laughed and sang, for they thought the road had ended here. But, it hadn't ended nor had the war ended as yet, but they were very happy.

I felt like I did the year we beat Clemson at school. It was along the same lines for I had waited so long for the team to beat them that when they did, I was happy but somehow I didn't feel like giving a great big yell and everyone was yelling his head off.

Today is drawing to a close and everyone going around with that old stateside gleam in his eye. To me it was just another day and I was in at 8 o'clock and now it's five. Tonight, we are really having a blowout at the club and if the Allies should announce their answer we will really be celebrating tonight.

I must close and go take a shower and make ready for another night down at the club. Say hello for me and write again soon. I received Daddy's long newsy letter yesterday.

Love to all,
Lionel



V-J Day to the Jungle Air Force meant the end of three years of constant fighting against the Japanese over 8,500,000 square miles of the Pacific, and on scores of isolated, sweltering, disease-infested jungle islands.

The 13th Air Force saga of blood, mud and crud began on Guadalcanal, when its fighters shot down 70 of a 110-plane Jap armada sent to eliminate Americans fighting for a foothold in the Pacific. Only six 13th Air Force planes were lost.

The Japanese military was bewildered when told the actual size of the 13th Air Force. They always assumed it to be a massive force because of the damage it caused. Actually the 13th was one of the small American Air Forces, consisting of only two P-38 fighter groups, one B-25 medium bomber group, two B-24 heavy bomber groups and a squadron of night-flying radar-equipped "Snooper" B-24's.

The 13th Air Force B-24's, in October 1944, routed a Japanese navy task force in the Battle of the Sulu Sea, damaging one of Japan's newest, largest battleships and preventing the warships from shelling the embattled American beachhead on Leyte.

In March, 1945, a lone 13th Air Force "Snooper" Liberator attacked and sank a Japanese carrier in the Mokassar Straits.

The 13th Air Force was the first to fly land-based bombers over Truk, flying almost 1,000 miles from the Solomons and Admiralty Islands bases. Zero interception and flak were thick and furious over Truk, but the 13th B-24's kept going back without fighter protection until the last Zero made its appearance.

The 13th also neutralized Yap, a strategic nest of well-defended airdromes that threatened the invasion of Guam and Saipan. The Jungle Air Force won several Distinguished Unit Citations for the destruction of a number of enemy installations.

Balikpapan, refining center of the Borneo oil fields, supplied 85% of Japanese fuel needs. In six smashing 2,600-mile raids, the longest non-stop missions ever flown by armed Liberator B-24's in formation, the 13th destroyed Balikpapan's oil production facilities. Sky battles over Balikpapan were the fiercest fought in the Southwest Pacific.

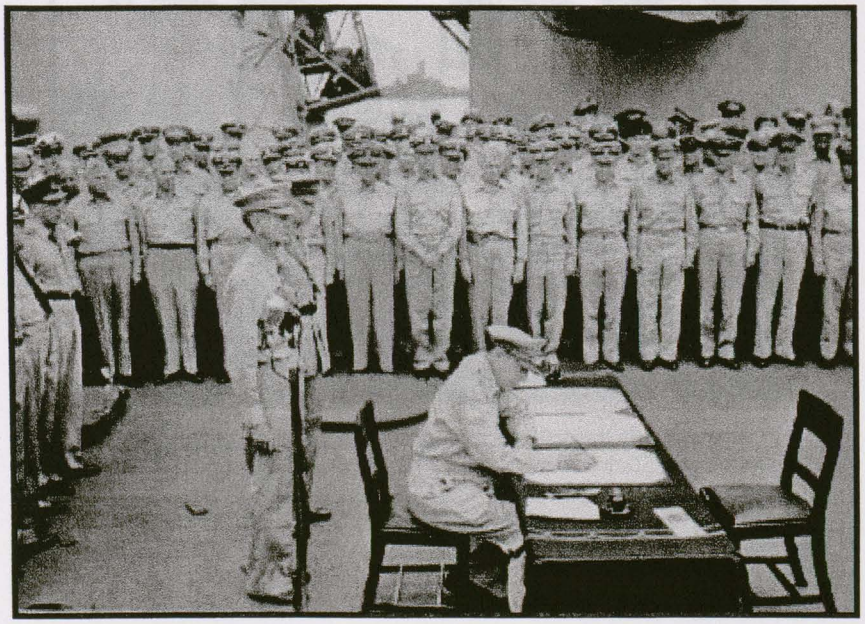
The 13th bombers were the first to hit the Manila area, avenging Corregidor with the first air attacks on that symbol of the U. S. Philippine defeat.

Thirteenth Air Force, "Snooper" Liberators raided Soerabaja, Java's chief port, in a record-breaking 3,000-mile non-stop flight. That all time record was broken by the 13th when its planes attacked Batavia, Java, population 500,000, in an 18-hour-and-40-minute non-stop flight.

As the Allied ring closed around the Japanese homeland, the 13th struck Indo-China, Singapore, Hongkong, Chinese coastal installations, Formosa and Korea. From Okinawa bases, the 13th was ready to rain destruction on Japan when the war ended.

Sam had strived for many months to meet his first cousin, Leon Boylston, who was also serving in the South Pacific. Cousin Leon finally caught up with Sam in the Philippines. Sam fed his outfit the entire time they were together. He also had plenty of beer he had saved up for them. Leon and his air-sea boat outfit never got a boat during the entire war. They stole two jeeps and a weapon carrier so they could go to see Sam. After this visit Lee and his crew headed for Okinawa.

On September 2, 1945, General Douglas MacArthur accepted the formal surrender of the Japanese on board the battleship, Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Thus officially ending the war with Japan.



National Archives: General Douglas MacArthur accepting the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri in Toyko Bay on September 2, 1945.

Sam wrote the following letter home on September 4, 1945, after learning of his grandfather's death.

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I received your letter yesterday and the sad news that Papa had died although it wasn't as much of a shock as Mama's death. I knew he was terribly sick but I had hoped so much that I could see him and the time was drawing near.-

They have lowered the score and re-added the points. Nagy will be home for Christmas. I'm pretty close to the top and should be home shortly after. Rif will be leaving this month.
You asked about Christmas boxes. Well, I wouldn't send anything for I won't be over long enough to make any difference. If you want to, you can send some can goods and items of that sort for it won't matter if I miss them but don't send anything valuable.

We are putting another art show on , it will be ready in several days. I will send some pictures home soon. Did you get the last ones?

Say hello to everyone and write soon.

Love to all,
Lionel

Painting by Sam Boylston of a Philippine church.

GOING HOME

Sam's last letter from the Pacific was written on September,1945, while he was still on Leyte in the Philippines.

Dear Family,

I received Mother's letter and you have finally received a letter from me. One of which was written while I was in the hospital, but I guess you have received some letters written since then. I haven't had any more trouble with my ear and I haven't been swimming.

Yesterday, we went down to see Rifkin and Leon. Rif is still around and doesn't know when he is going to get out of the Replacement Battalion. It seems transportation is tied up at present. He will probably leave this week sometime.

We picked up Rif and went down to spend the evening with Leon, which was only a few miles down the road. He was taking things easy. He was in Manila for several days and got some mail from his headquarters. He still doesn't know when he may get out of here or maybe he shall stay. They aren't doing anything.

Nagy will be leaving or begin his stateside journey about Sunday. I guess he will be a happy fellow.

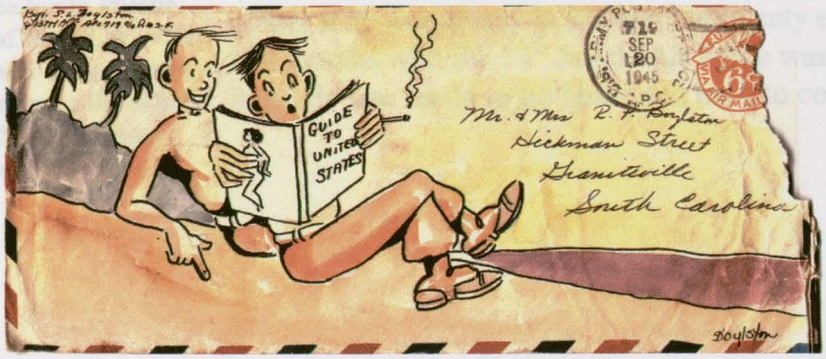
Duke and I will probably go next month or November at the latest. I hope there is plenty of transportation by that time.

I have some souvenirs which I shall send home in a few weeks. I have several water colors which I'm working on and which are better than some of the others which I have done.

I will have to close for that's all. Say hello to everyone and write soon.

Love always,
Lionel

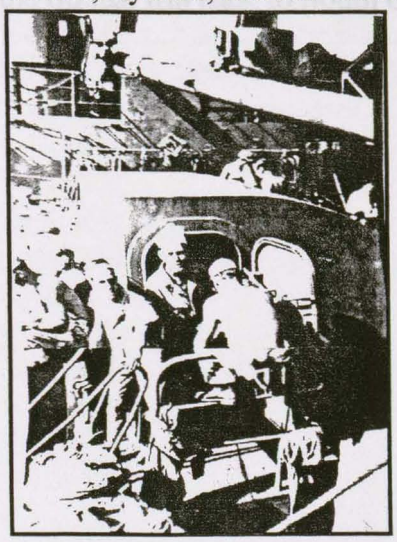
P. S. I received Daddy's box it was wonderful! Mayonnaise, olives, etc. Thanks!



When the war ended while Sam was in Leyte his orders had already been cut for Okinawa. With the war over he and his 13th Air Force buddies were anxious to get back home as soon as possible.

National Archives: Celebration in New York City on August 14, 1945 after news of Japanese surrender received.

The combat record of the 13th Army Air Force had been outstanding. At the beginning of the war it had guarded Australia in early 1942. Then the 13th was involved in 13 major campaigns before the war ended. These campaigns included; Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Bismarck Archipelago, Eastern Mandates, Central Pacific battles, Western Pacific, New Guinea, Philippines, China, Air Combat Borneo, Ryukua, and Air offensive Japan.



Sgt. Sam Boylston onboard the USS Cottle which brought him home from the South Pacific after the end of World War II. Sam painted and hung a large 13th AAF banner over the side of the ship in San Francisco harbor.

A former commander of the 13th Air Force, General Matheny said, " Those 13th outfits got so much practice moving their bases they could move at an hour's notice, just like a circus troop".

The 13th Air Force flew 97,038 combat missions, dropped 61,929 tons of explosives, destroyed 1,439 Japanese aircraft, sunk 1,349,130 tons of shipping, while losing only 490 American Aircraft.

Technical Sergeant Sam Boylston and many of his fellow airmen were transported by ship to San Francisco in November, 1945. Their ship bucked the tail end of a typhoon on the way home which created waves up to 50 feet. Sam's Colonel offered to make him a Warrant officer if he would stay in service, but twenty eight and a half months with the 13th Jungle Air Force was enough for him. He was ready to go home and back to college.

HOME AT LAST

Sam's ship landed in San Francisco in December, 1945. Since there were no barracks available for all the returning troops, Sam and his friends had to live aboard the ship for three weeks.

Sam painted a large banner that was hung over the side of the ship which stated: "Members of the 13th Army Air Force-The Jungle Air Force",with a large insignia.

Finally, train transportation was arranged for the long journey across the United States to Fort Gordon, Georgia where he was discharged.

On the long train trip across the Southern United States, Sam spent most of his time in the kitchen car. The chief cook was from Elloree, SC and he cooked special things for the home folks, such as steak and French fries. Sam sat on a crate in the kitchen car door and looked at deserts, snow capped mountains, the plains, rivers and lakes and finally, pines, oaks and the cotton fields back home. Those cotton fields never looked so good as they did on that trip back to South Carolina.

BACK TO COLLEGE

Following his discharge,Sam spent a few months enjoying home life, before making plans to return to the University of South Carolina, on the G. I. Bill, along with thousands of other returning veterans. He was graduated from the University in 1951 with a Law Degree.

Sam was a cartoonist for the college newspaper, "Gamecock", for three years and a leader in campus politics. He painted many banners and made homecoming floats for the football games. He designed the first Gamecock costume which was made by a former teacher, Miss Cannady, at University High School. His friend, George Odom wore the costume at Carolina football games. Sam made more tigers that were burned before the Clemson-Carolina, Big Thursday, football games, than anyone. He helped organize the McBryde Brotherhood, which participated in many campus activities. The Brotherhood won campus championships in football and basketball. His brother, Raymond played on the football and basketball teams. Sam was an artist for the Caroliniana Magazine and the Garnet and Black Yearbook. When the Blue Key societies of Clemson and Carolina tried to abandon the tradition of burning the tiger and burying the gamecock, he had his friend, Wickenburg, editor of the Gamecock school paper, put out a special edition calling for a student body meeting on the tiger burning. Sam made a famous Patrick Henry type speech condemning the Blue Key action. The student body voted, overwhelming approval to burn the tiger which continues until the present.

Sam was chairman of the Law Library Committee . He was in charge of student assistants. He helped move the Law School from Pettigrew to its large facility on Green Street.

THE GOOD LIFE

Following his graduation, Sam Boylston practiced law in Springfield, South Carolina. He was elected to serve in the South Carolina House of Representatives from Orangeburg County. Later, he managed the South Carolina Warehouse Division of State Government. Then, he became the manager of the South Carolina Trucking Association for over 30 years.

Sam was named Chairman of the Regional Executives Organization and also the National Organization. He wrote a History of South Carolina Trucking, "Horses to Horsepower". He was president of SC Association Executives and the SC Highway Users Conference. Governor Carrol Campbell gave him South Carolina's highest award, "The Order of the Palmetto". During his years with the Trucking Association, he increased the membership, built a new headquarters and helped pass many important pieces of Trucking legislation. He continues as a Trucking Industry consultant.

Sam married the former June Busbee Cheatham of Springfield, S. C. and raised two stepdaughters. He is an outstanding artist, famous for his painting of the South Carolina low country, especially around Edisto Island. Sam is now retired, living in Columbia South Carolina. He paints, writes books and enjoys frequent visits from his two daughters, their spouses and his four grandchildren.

POSTSCRIPT

The 13th "Jungle Air Force Veterans Association still meets periodically throughout the United States. The 1996 reunion was held in Louisville, Kentucky. The 13th AAF veterans at the meetings thoroughly enjoy visiting with their old comrades and sharing their common experiences. The 13th AAF Museum , previously in the Philippines, was damaged by a volcanic eruption and relocated to Guam.

More information concerning the 13th AAF Veterans Association may be obtained by contacting the Association Treasurer, Bob Storch, 1826 Brevor Drive, Walla Walla, WA 99362, Telephone (509) 529-3425.

ADDENDUM
(2004)

Samuel Lionel Boylston lived a long, happy and rewarding life. He died on March 2, 2001 at his home in Columbia, South Carolina after a long illness. Despite his incapacitation, he remained jovial and enjoyed telling his many jokes and stories about his home town, Springfield, SC. Sam continued to paint and draw right up until the final years of his life. Hundreds of his paintings are located in homes and businesses throughout the nation. Some of his best paintings were those of Edisto Island, SC where he loved to visit and fish.

Sam always remembered his World War II experiences in the South Pacific and his 13th Army Air Force buddies. He stayed in touch with them and the 13th AAF Veterans Association. He was proud to be a part of the "Greatest Generation."

Samuel Boylston

COLUMBIA — Graveside service for Samuel L. Boylston, 77, will be held at 11 a.m Monday in Springfield Cemetery, Springfield. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Palmetto Health Hospice, P.O. Box 7275, Columbia, SC 29202, American Lung Association, 1817 Gadsden St., Columbia, SC 29201 or Carolina Children's Home, 3201 Trenholm Rd., Columbia, SC 29204. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday at Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel.

Mr. Boylston, husband of the late June Busbee Boylston, died Friday, March 2, 2001. Born in Orangeburg County near Springfield, he was a son of the late Raymond P. and Lillie B. Boylston. A 1950 graduate of the USC School of Law, he was cartoonist for the Gamecock and art editor of the South Caroliniana Magazine. He was also a member of Kappa Sigma Kappa and helped form the McBryde Brotherhood.

Mr. Boylston was a member of the General Assembly from Orangeburg County 1951-1956. He was vice-chairman of the Education and Public Works and the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committees. He introduced legislation to have Speaker Sol Blatt's portrait painted and placed in the House Chamber. He practiced law in Springfield, was the town attorney and a member of the South Carolina Bar Association.

In 1963 Mr. Boylston was named executive vice president, South Carolina Trucking Association, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. Thereafter, he continued to work for the association as a consultant and in other capacities. At the time of his retirement, he was the third ranking trucking association executive. He was a registered lobbyist and played a major role in the passage of much truck legislation. He was editor of Trucking Hi-Lights newspaper for twenty-five years. He also wrote a history of South Carolina trucking.

Mr. Boylston was awarded the Order of the Palmetto from Gov. Carroll Campbell. An excellent public speaker, he spoke to many organizations in and out of South Carolina.

A veteran of WW II, he served with the Thirteenth Army Air Force in the South Pacific for twenty-eight months. He was a member and former commander of Spingfield's American Legion Post No. 54. He was a member of the Columbia Rotary Club and chaired several of its committees. He was a Paul Harris Fellow and will be remembered for his entertaining health and happiness reports. An artist and cartoonist, his works were published in South Carolina papers. He was a member of the South Carolina Watercolor Society and Forest Lake Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are daughters, Norma C. Brown of Fredericksburg, VA and Robin C. Caldwell of Brunswick, GA; brother, Raymond P. Boylston of Raleigh, NC; and four grandchildren.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

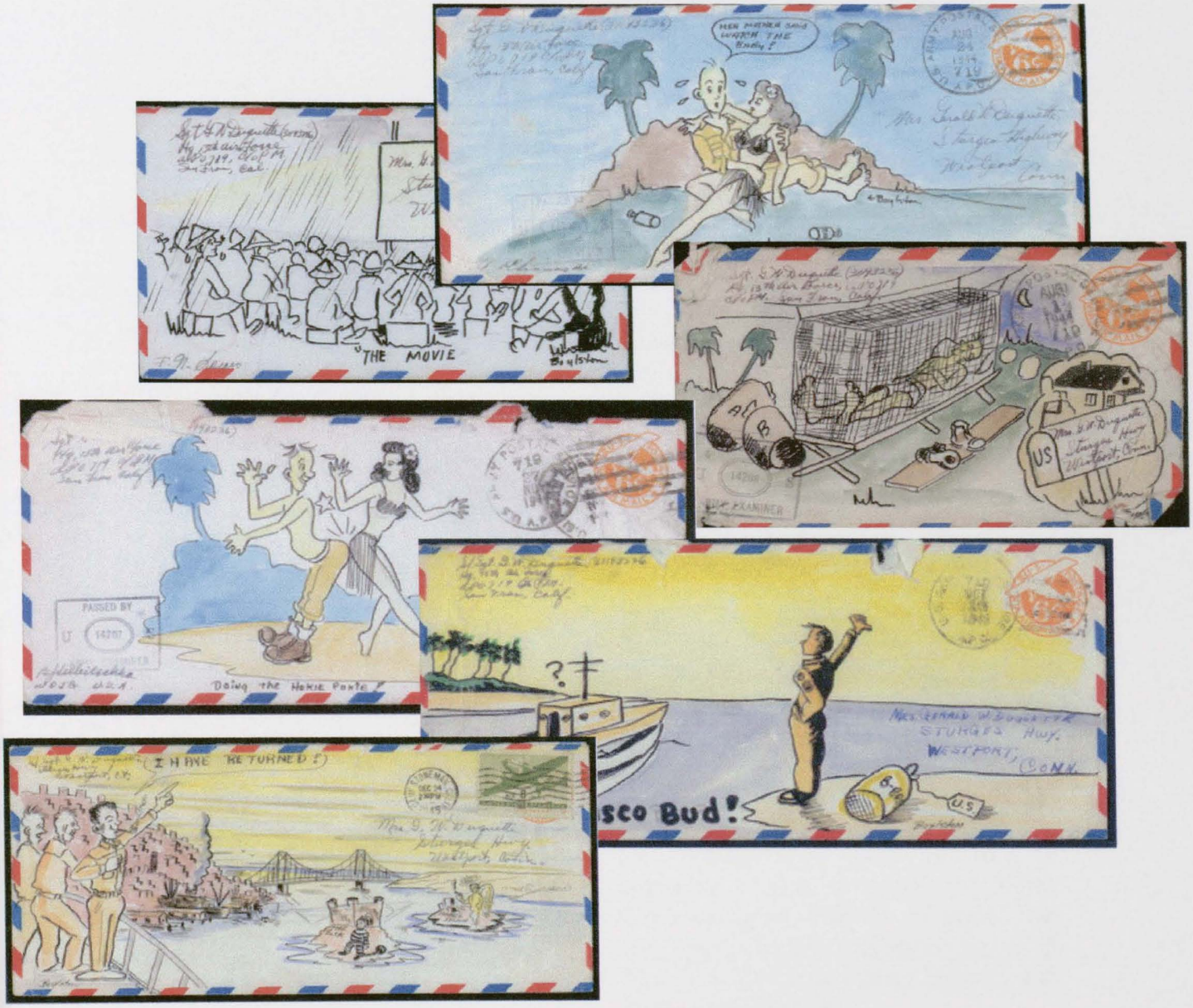
Motivated by a desire to honor our nation's war veterans for their service and to collect their stories and experiences, the United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in October 2000. The law was signed by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000. The legislation calls upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to collect and preserve oral histories along with documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and home movies, of America's war veterans and those who served in support of them. The Veterans History Project covers World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars.

On Sunday February 22, 2004 and article appeared in the Connecticut section of the New York Times newspaper about some of Sam Boylston's envelopes with cartoons which were drawn during WW II in the South Pacific. The article, *The Art of War*, by Katherine Boas described about sixty envelopes with cartoons drawn by Sam, which had been donated to the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress by Gerald W. Duquette and his wife Lillian of Westport, Connecticut. Duquette was a friend of Sam's in the South Pacific. Sam drew cartoons on the envelopes that he sent home to his wife Lillian. She said "I could see this G.I. with a pencil and some paper and he was scratching away, making all kinds of sketches and cartoons and everything." Lillian saved the envelopes in a dresser drawer, wrapped in a rubber band. She and her husband, Gerald, did not want these envelopes to be lost and wanted others to enjoy the cartoons so they donated them to the Library of Congress.

In March 2004, Ms. Anneliesa Clump Behrend, Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC was contacted and she provided information about Sam Boylston's cartoons drawn on the Duquette envelopes and how to view them on the Veterans History Project website:
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.01848/

A copy of this book, Sam Boylston's biographical data and photos were forwarded to the Veterans History Project by the author in April 2004.

THE ART OF WAR



PREPARED BY

RAYMOND P. BOYLSTON, JR.

This book was written by Raymond P. Boylston, Jr. of Raleigh, North Carolina. He is the younger brother of Samuel Lionel Boylston, who served in the 13th Army Air Force during World War II. Raymond (Ray) was a teenager in Graniteville, South Carolina during the war. He, his mother and father lived in Graniteville from 1942 through 1945. Sam Boylston's letters were mailed to them in Graniteville. However, Sam and his family were natives of Springfield, South Carolina, about 40 miles southeast of Graniteville.

Ray Boylston was given a shoe box containing many of the letters written by Sam Boylston from the South Pacific during WWII. The letters and their cartooned envelopes were kept by Sam's mother, Lillie Victoria Boylston. She also kept a Service Record Book concerning Sam's military service. This Service Record Book, including many photographs, and Sam's letters, provided the main theme of the book.

Ray Boylston is retired and living in Raleigh, North Carolina with his wife, Bobbie Weeks Boylston. They have three children and seven grandchildren and three great grand children. Ray is the former President of ELB and Associates, Inc., Chapel Hill, NC. He was an instructor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for 13 years. He has written books concerning the Civil War, The Boylston Family History, and Safety Management.

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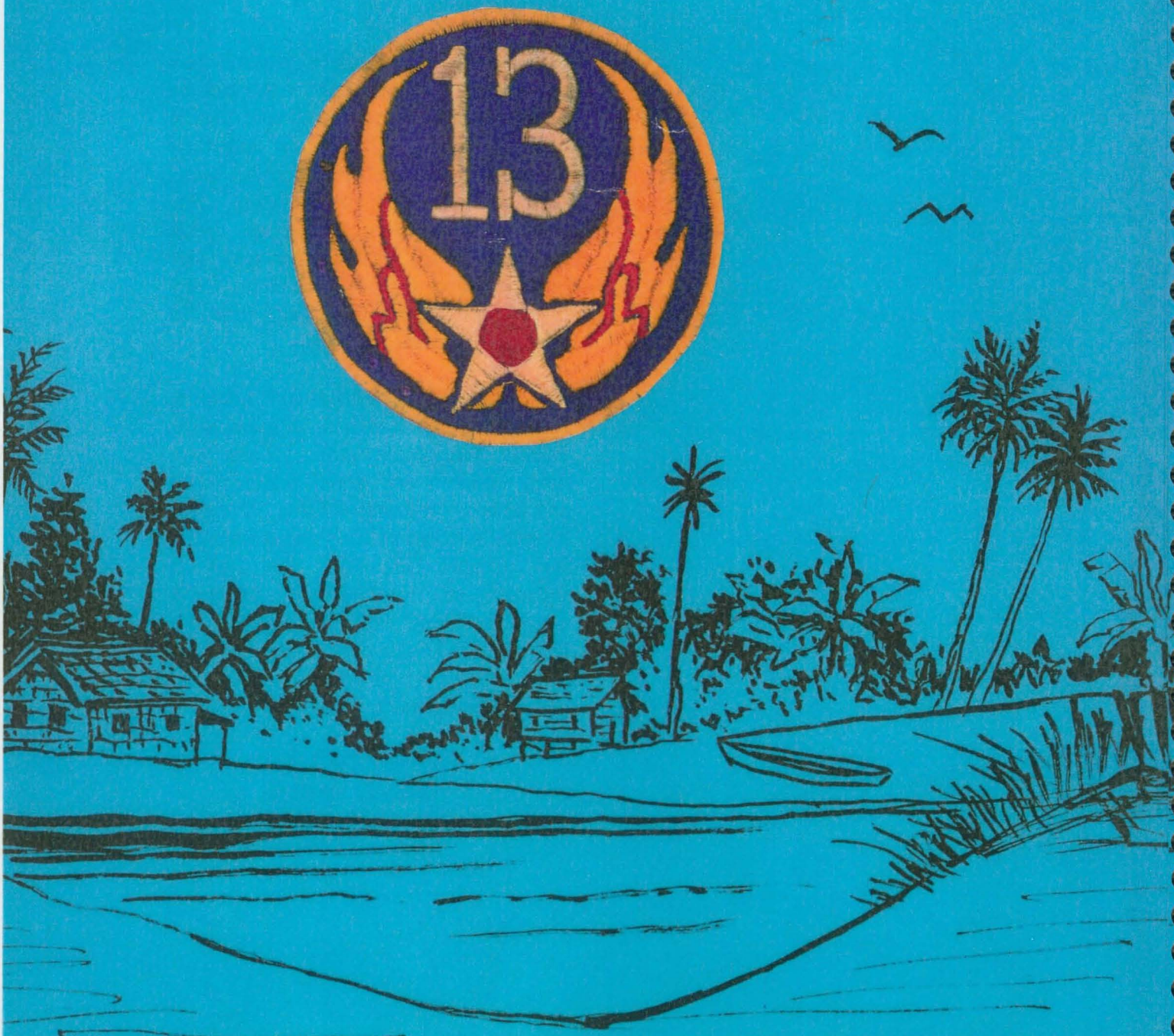
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