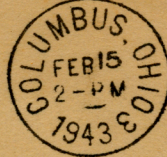
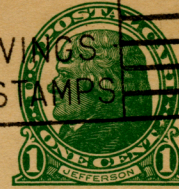


Put. Bob Nicolls
Company B
Fort Hayes
Ohio



BUY
WAR SAVINGS
BONDS AND STAMPS



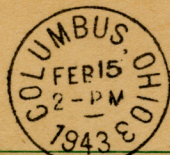
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Donald Nicollls
Delaware Avenue
Poland, Ohio

Hello Don, Sat. Feb. 13, 1943
How was the game last night?
How many points did you get?
Good luck in the tourney. I hope
Poland wins.

You should see the equipment
we get. It's really tops. The
clothes are the best and warm.
I haven't been cold since I've
gotten my clothes. I've met some
nice fellows. Three especially, Ted,
and two Harold's. Ted is assigned
to the paratroopers. He has K.P.
today and also tomorrow. The tourney
Derby horse race is on the radio
now. Our helmets are made
from a fibre like plastic. An
armor plate fits on it when we
go to battle. The guardhouse
inmates eat in one corner of the
mess hall. Five fellows surround
them with sawed off shotguns. They
are searched before leaving the hall.
They treat those guys rough. We
move pretty soon. I don't know when.
of our brother
Bob

Pvt. Bob Nicolls
Company B
Fort Hayes
Ohio



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. S. E. Nicolls
Conneautville,
Pa.

Sun. Feb, 14, 1943

Hello Grandpa and Grandma,
Well I'm in the Army at last. I got here last Thursday evening. I expect to be sent out from here either today or tomorrow. I'll give you my address when I get where I'm going. Friday we got our clothes, interviewed, two shots, and an intelligence test. I got 129 on the test. I took it over on Saturday. I don't know why. The food is good and the clothes are the best. The fellows are fine. There are four of us that stick together. Last night, three of us went into Columbus to see Bob Hope in "They Got Me Covered." Today, Ted, Harold, and I went to church. We get up at four-thirty and don't have to be in until eleven although lights go out at nine. I haven't written to Al yet but I'll write to him next. I like this a lot. I hope I get sent down south. It was three below at six this morning.

Your grandson
Bob

Pat. Bob Nicolls (35535456)
Hg. Bty. 335th F.A. Bn.
A.P.O. # 448
Camp McCain, Miss.



Free

U.S. Army

Mr. Don Nicolls
26 Delaware Avenue
Poland,
Ohio

Port. Bob Nicolls (35535456)

Hq. Btry. 335th F.A. Bn.

A.F.O. #448

Camp McCain, Miss.

March 22, 1943

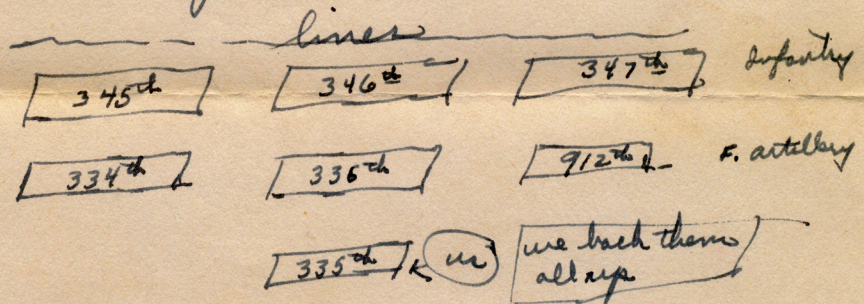


87TH DIVISION
CAMP MCCAIN
MISSISSIPPI

Hello Don,

I'm not sure as to the number of men in a regiment but Sgt. Bergstrom said he'd help me look it up. He's not sure but we think it's a little over 3000 men. Well see. I'll let you know soon.

You should see the army from the inside. I believe it would interest you. We learn all about and how to operate the 155 mm. howitzers. That is what is in our battalion. 334th, 336th, & the 912th have 105's. This is how we go into battle.



We have had gas warfare classes. We've had attacks of chlorine, chloropicrin, phosgene, & Lewisite gases. Also tear gas and smoke screens. I got a good dose of Phosgene and was pretty sick for awhile. I've got my gas mask fixed so that I could live in it. I can sure put it on in a hurry. We'll get a lot more yet.

We've got so much to learn in so short a time. I'm doing my darndest. I've got a lot of notes. I'm making a notebook.

A battalion (F. artillery) consists of about a thousand men. It is divided into five batteries. Headquarters - it consists of communications, drivers, maintenance men, fire direction centers, etc. (anti tank & anti aircraft). A, B, & C - these are

the firing batteries. Each has four howitzers making twelve in the battalion. Service - this is the supplies, such as equipment, food, clothing, etc.

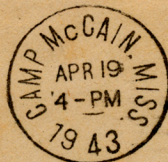
We have been in quarantine for several weeks. We get out at midnight tonight. It was lifted. One week was for spinal meningitis and the rest was for measles. Some of the guys are still in the hospital with measles, though. I'll try to write some things to you that you might want to know. Just ask me.

Sarah says that you are taking charge of this issue of the "Seminarian". Also she is going to send me some maps so that I'll know where I am. Find out if she's sending me any war maps. If not, how about sending me some?

This is nice spring weather.

Yours brother
Bob

Pvt. Bob Nicolls (38535456)
Hq. Btry. 335th F. A. Bn.
A. P. O. #448
Camp McCain, Miss.



Mr. Don Nicolls
26 Delaware Avenue
Poland,
Ohio



87TH DIVISION
CAMP MCGAIN
MISSISSIPPI

Pvt. Bob Nicolls (35535456)
Hq. Bty. 335th F. A. Bn.
A. P. O. # 448
Camp McCain, Miss.
April 18, 1943

Dear Don,

Well Don, how is everything with you? How is school coming along? Does the school paper keep you very busy? How is the track team shaping up? What events are you in? How high do you highjump?

I'll answer some of your questions. Our howitzers aren't mounted. They are pulled by trucks. A rifle bullet can't even puncture their tires. The tires are up to my shoulders. We, I mean the firing batteries^{A, B, & C}, will aim the howitzers by radio or telephone. Our advanced observer telephones the position and such to the fire direction center. They have computers who figure the range, elevation, depression, type of shell, type of charge, etc. They telephone that to the firing batteries. That's an idea of it. We will have two planes for observation purposes only. They will be equipped with radios. I believe one will be a helicopter. I haven't seen any M10's. Our anti-tank guns are the 37 mm. We call them pea shooters. Our 335th is the 155 mm howitzer battalion. We back up the whole works. Three batteries; A, B, & C; are the firing batteries. They fire the howitzers. Headquarters, us, furnish communications, anti-aircraft & anti-tank protection, and other such brain work. We are the white-

collar boys. The other battery, service, supplies the food, equipment, ammunition, and such.

Well Don, our troops in Tunisia really are doing a good job. The British 8th Army has covered the most ground, yes, but they really have had the easier part. Our U.S. troops haven't gained so much but they've had more resistance and difficulties to overcome.

This camp has an average age of 22 years for enlisted men and either 25 or 28 for officers. Plenty young. A lot of the fellows in our battery were taken out of school.

We've had such nice weather for so long so I suppose will have plenty of rain now. It's sure muddy now.

Write when you get time.

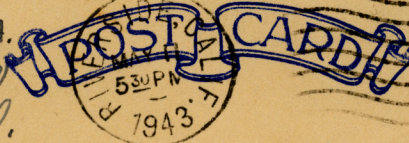
your brother
Bob

Pvt. W. R. Hahn (35607023)

Btry. C, 77th AAA.

Auto. Wpns. Bn (SP)

Camp Haan, Cal.



Free

Mr. Don Nicolls

Box 74

Poland

Ohio



Camp Haan

California

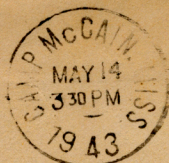
Dear Sir,

It behooves^{me} to express my
heartiest congratulations for the
achievements that you are making.
Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow you until you stop getting

A's.

a genius

Post. Bob Nicolls (35535456)
Hq. Btry. 335th F. A. Bn.
A.P.O. #448
Camp McQuinn, Miss.



Mr. Don Nicolls
26 Delaware Avenue
Poland,
Ohio

Pvt. Bob Nicolls (35535456)

Hq. Bty. 335th F.A. Bn.

A.P.O. # 448

Camp McLean, Miss.

May 13, 1943.

Dear Don,

It's almost five in the morning and we've been up since before three-thirty. We are going on the rifle range to fire for records today.

Yesterday we fired for practice. We fired the famous Girards. They had told us to pad our shoulders with socks for the gun would kick but I didn't. I told them that I wouldn't be padding my shoulder on the battle field so why here. The first shot, I was a little scared, I guess. I was very surprised. It didn't seem to kick at all. It really kicks about two or three inches but it isn't even noticeable. It was sure fun. I made 120 out of a possible 180. Anglin got 156 out of 180. He was sure shooting. We fired slow fire and then rapid fire. Rapid fire is like a machine gun. That's what's fun. Rapid fire prone position (lying down) I got 35 out of a possible 40. We have to remain standing until the targets start to come up and then we can get into our positions and fire. In rapid fire, you just keep pulling the trigger. In rapid prone position, I got three bullseyes, and five four pointers. Bulls are equal to five. I hope I do better today.

Don, in the field artillery, there isn't any kind of a sergeant that loses his rank while in the field. It may be so in other divisions but not in this one. The sergeants that work in the offices keep the rank while in the field.

In the army, no one is allowed to work, that is repair or such, on the radios except the radio sergeant and radio electrician, also the signal corps. We learn to operate and align them. If I do get my T-4 rating (radio electrician), I will learn how to repair them and such. I sure hope I can get the rating and go out on the cadre.

Net communications is a group of radios or telephones or both that are working together. There are command nets, fire direction nets, etc. It's a little hard to explain.

The guys are turning the lights out to get a little more sleep. The rest of the battery has left for the range.

Good luck to you and Gene in the track meets. Keep up the good work.

your brother
Bob

2 d
free

DON NICOLLS

DELAWARE AVE,

ROLAND

OHIO

SEPT 11 1943

DEAR DON,
HAPPY B. DAY.

I did not have a
BIRTHDAY CARD SO
I AM SENDING YOU
THIS INSTEAD AND
INSTEAD OF THE CAKE
I AM SENDING YOU THE
COOKIES AS YOU
PROBABLY KNOW THERE
IS A WAR GOING ON.

LOVE FROM

GRANNY