

Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

Section 17, Pages 481 - 510

A collection of 198 letters written by Carrol Victor Christian (also known as Bob Christian) to his wife Floriene Olive Graham Christian (also known as Fluffy). Carrol Christian was born October 22, 1906, in Clyde, Kansas, and his parents were Winfield Clark Christian and Mary Dorothea Bottger Christian. Carrol Christian spent his youth in Clyde and graduated from Clyde High School. He married Floriene Olive Graham on April 6, 1935, and they had two sons Keith W. Christian and Carrol R. Christian. On December 23, 1942 Carrol Christian was drafted into the Army Air Corp and served as a corporal in the Air Transportation Command in India and Burma where he was a cook. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Pacific Campaign Medal (with two service stars), Distinguished Unit Badge and the China War Memorial Medal. After the war, Christian and his wife moved to Russell, Kansas, where he worked in the oil fields, a grain elevator and a lumber yard until he retired at age 65.

Creator: Christian, Carrol Victor

Date: December 31, 1942-September 21, 1945

Callnumber: 2010-077.01

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 218658

Item Identifier: 218658

www.kansasmemory.org/item/218658

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Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece



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Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India

Dear Fluffy:

May 23, 1944

Just came back from the PX so will write you a few lines. Am feeling fine & hope you are the same. We got a beer ration tonight of four bottles of beer. There was a long line ahead of us so took some time to get it, while we were waiting in line some guy came along and said he would give us ten rupees for our beer so the mex & I sold our beer.

Had two letters from you yesterday written may 1 & 8 and one today of may 11. Also had one from the folks today. Was sorry to hear of your accident & hope you aren't laid up too long. Seems like you are having more than your share of bad luck! you tell your dad I said for him to put you in bed & keep you there till I get home so you dont get hurt anymone. Do you think I want to come home & find my wife all crippled up &

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going around on crutches or riding in a wheel chair? (ha) I want you to be in first class shape because I think by the time I get out of here I will need you to push me around in a wheel chair. (ha)

So you are thinking of going to Clyde as soon as you are able to be around? Well I can't blame you for that only wish that you don't go and stay with mabel while you are there. I don't like that gal & know that the folks feel the same way so you better find some place else to stay.

Mom said they had butchered a hog & she had been plenty busy putting up meat. She said if I could get a furlough she would feed me sausage, side meat, ham or shoulder sure sounds good but afraid the furlough would be hard to get. She sent me a clipping from the Clyde paper telling all about Raymond Hamilton & also one saying that Mrs Clyde Lawrence had heard from Clyde & he was a prisoner in Tokyo. Those



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two boys have sure had some experiences.
all the men here who has been here since
december were given a bronze star which
we are authorized to wear on our theatre
ribbons for being in the india, burma
invasion.

Went to the show last night & saw, "Cabin
in the sky," it was an all colored cast &
was a pretty good show. There will be a
different show tomorrow night but dont know
what it will be.

I haven't been here twenty two months
yet but these natives still look just as
black & dirty to me as they did the first
time I saw them so dont think I will
ever get any ideas about them. (ha)

Well bid guess this is all hope you are
all well and listen, take care of yourself
as I dont want to hear about you getting
hurt anymore.

With Lots of Love
Your Husband Bob.

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India

Dear Fluffy:

May 25, 1944

How is the cripple getting along by now? I just finished eating supper so am feeling quite well. Have about one hour to kill before show time so will write you a few lines. It looks pretty much like rain so don't know if I will get to see the show. Was planning on writing last night but got an unexpected call for guard duty so didn't get to write. It wasn't my turn to do guard duty but they came around about 15 minutes till five & told me I would have to go on. The guards are supposed to be out at five o'clock so sure had to dress & get things ready in a hurry. I got the first shift this time which is from six in the evening till midnight so it wasn't so bad, they also told me I wouldn't go on guard again for twenty days so guess it was alright. It rained most of the time while I was on guard but was able to find some shelter so

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didn't get very wet.

Had one letter from you today written may thirteenth so you see it made pretty good time getting here. So they finally got Glen Hill in the army? Sure don't know how he & some of those other guys managed to stay out this long, don't wish them any bad luck but would like to see some of them over here in this hole I believe it would do them some good.

You said you had received my letter with the request for some things & had started buying them so will be looking forward for a package. Wish now I had told you to send a flashlight as the one I bought here is wore out & sure could use one since we have to go on guard. Also wrote to the folks for some things so suppose they will send a package too.

I suppose donla has another baby by now or will have soon. Don't know what is the matter with those kids heads, if they keep on the way they have been they will sure have a house full of kids. Still think



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arnold should have a little army life it would do him some good.

Say that fried chicken & chocolate cake sure made me feel sort of homesick, especially the chocolate cake. We have a pretty good baker in our mess hall but the cakes he makes aren't like those you used to make, am sure looking forward to getting home & getting some of your good cooking again. So you better keep in good practice. (ha)

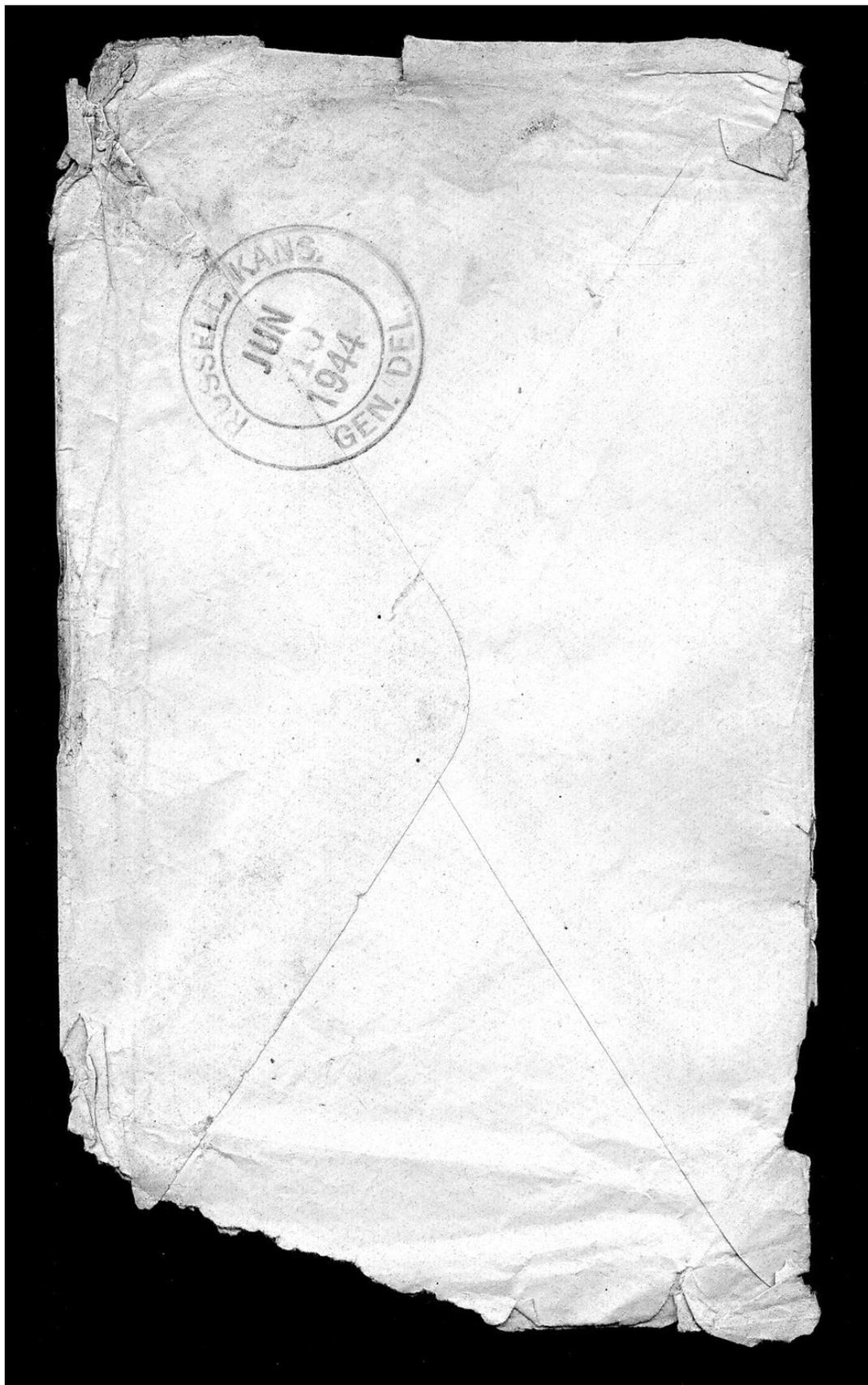
Well bid guess this is all for this time so will close, hope you are able to get along without your crutches by now. Tell everyone hello & if you get to clyde tell the folks hello & that I am ok. Write & tell me all the clyde scandal when you get there.

With Lots of Love
your Husband, Bob.

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India

Dear Fluffy:

May 29-44

Just came from the show & it is ten o'clock but guess I better write you a few lines before I go to bed. Haven't written now for about three days, kept thinking I would hear from you & then write but haven't had any mail now for four days. I haven't written to the folks for quite a while also one clank, & ted & alicia a letter. Writing from here is such a hard job that I am getting so I hate to even think about writing.

The show tonight was, "Lady of Burlesque" and it wasn't so hot. Saw Revellie with Beverly this week and liked it very much. you remember how you used to have to coax me to go to a show? Now I go and sit out in the rain during the whole show just to see one. Sure makes a difference where you are at. (ha) got one clyde paper this week that

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had been printed Dec. 30 almost five months getting here, pretty good service dont you think? (ha)

I suppose you are either in clyde by now or are about ready to go, sure wish I could go with you. How is the crippled leg getting along? Hope it is all well by now & am warning you again, take it easy & be careful till I get home to sort of look out for you (ha)

Had an ambitious streak this morning & cleaned all around by bunk, cleaned my gun & took all my clothes out & hung them in the sun, pretty good for me dont you think so?

another month almost gone & next month will make one year of india, the time seems to go by pretty fast yet it still seems like an awful long time since I saw you last.

Well bid there isn't anything new & I have to get up early in the morning so better close. I am feeling fine & hope you are all the same.

With Lots of Love
Your Husband Bob

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India

Dear Fluffy:

June 1, 1944

Just finished supper & I saw the show last night so haven't anything to do tonight so will write a few lines to let you know I am ok. Still haven't got any mail from anybody for a whole week now and am getting anxious to hear from you to find out how the leg is getting along. Hope it is almost well by now.

This month sort of brings back memories that makes me feel rather homesick I think it is about a year ago now that we were at salt lake city enjoying ourselves, wish we were there now. I didn't used to like bearns but would be glad to be stationed there now providing you were there with me. The sixteenth of this month makes one year since we left the states, they say two years here & then we can go home so will be going on the down hill grade pretty soon. However I hope this thing is all

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over before I reach my two years.

"China" was the name of the show last night, it was about the war between japan & china, maybe you have seen it.

Today we got a ration of a whole case of papst blue ribbon beer for each man just think of that, dont you wish you were here to help me drink it.?

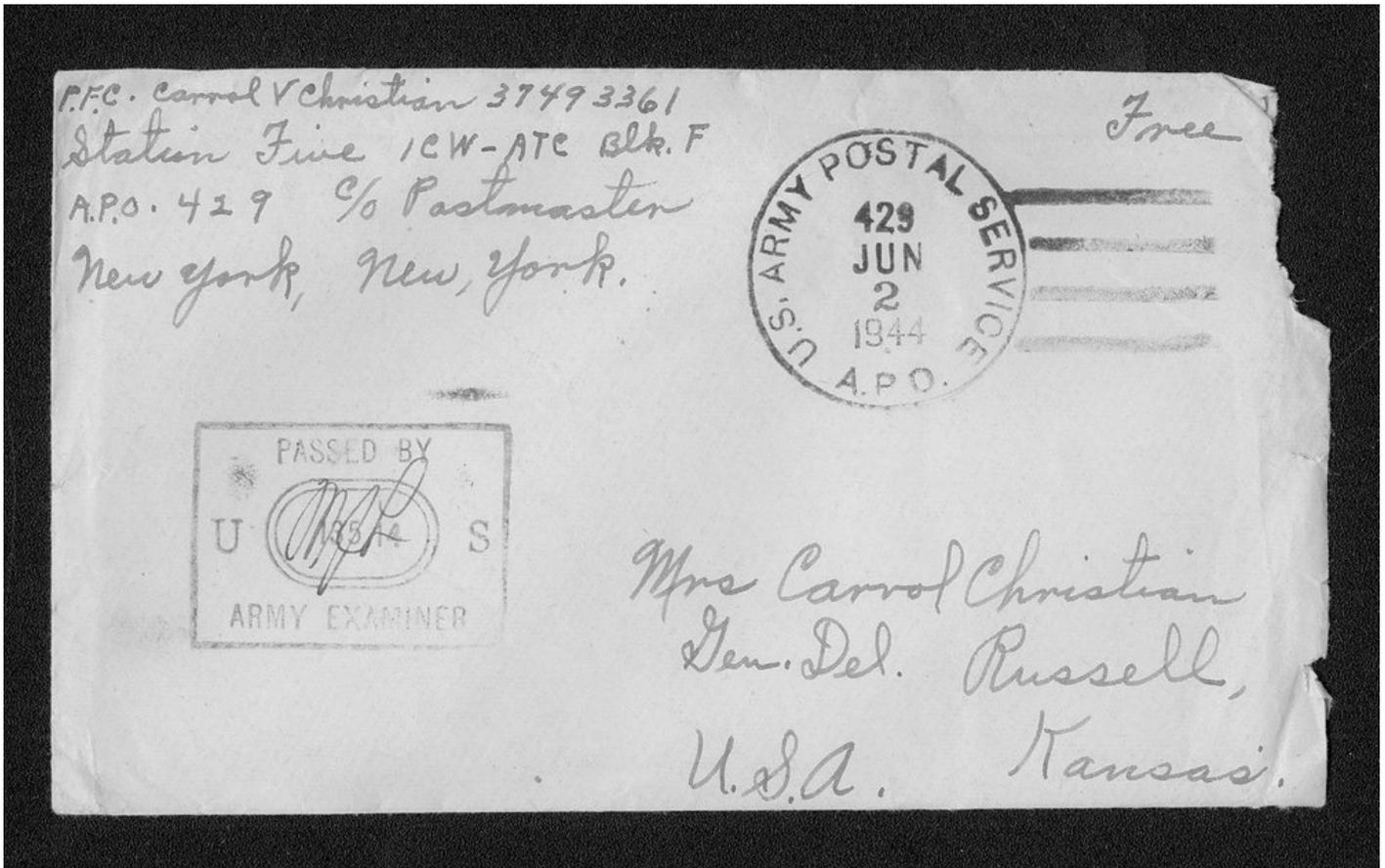
The mexican just came over & said they were going to play poker & drink beer & wanted me to come over so guess I will go play a while. It passes away the time & gets your mind off of things for a while.

Just had an interruption two mexican boys were boxing out here by the barrack so had to go see them.

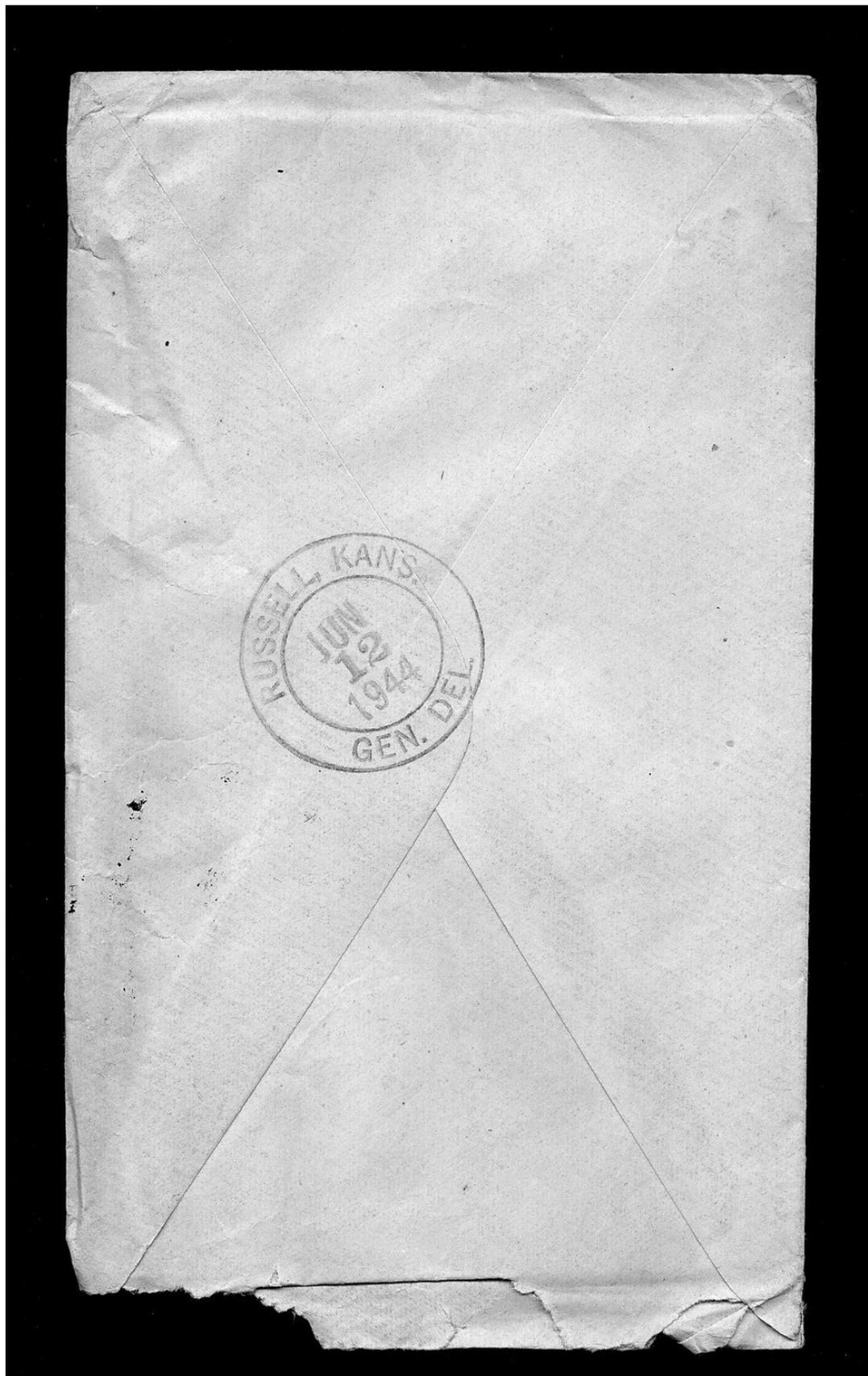
Well bid, guess this is all hope you are ok by now & also hope I get some mail pretty soon.

With Lots of Love
Your Husband Bob.

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India
June 4, 1944

Dear Fluffy:

Just finished supper & am so full I am in misery, was off work at noon today so just before supper I drank two bottles of beer & it sure gave me an appetite. Had fried chicken, mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, Creamed corn, carrots, raisin & apple pie & coffee to drink, believe me I sure got full for once. Now listen, dont get the idea we have meals like that all the time most generally it is spam or corned beef. (ha)

This is sunday night & no show, nothing to read so guess it will be a long evening. Wish you were here to keep me company.

How are you getting along with the crippled leg? Haven't had any mail for about twelve days now & am getting anxious to hear from you. The latest letter from you was written may 13 so you see that is sometime ago.

Had another letter from Jean yesterday that is all the mail I have got during the

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last twelve days & believe me that isn't so good. Went to the show night before last & saw Ray Cooper in, "Swing fever," it was a pretty good show.

Looks like they are going to make this camp like it was back in the states, now they are coming out with some drill & training that every man has to take, it starts tomorrow but don't know yet when I will have to take mine. They put up a list of names today of guys to go on furlough & there was two cooks from our mess hall on the list so suppose my turn will be coming up pretty soon. The way I feel now I may go, think it would do me good to get away from here & forget about things for awhile.

Jean said Blair had been home on a fifteen day furlough & also said that Butch had not arrived as yet, she thought she would go to Louisiana as soon as she was able after the baby came so guess

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blain must figure on being there for a while. He had seen the picture of me & the indian boy and had told her about the boy I had over here. This boy comes in pretty handy now since we cant go to town, if there is anything I want all I have to do is give him some rupees & he does my buying for me.

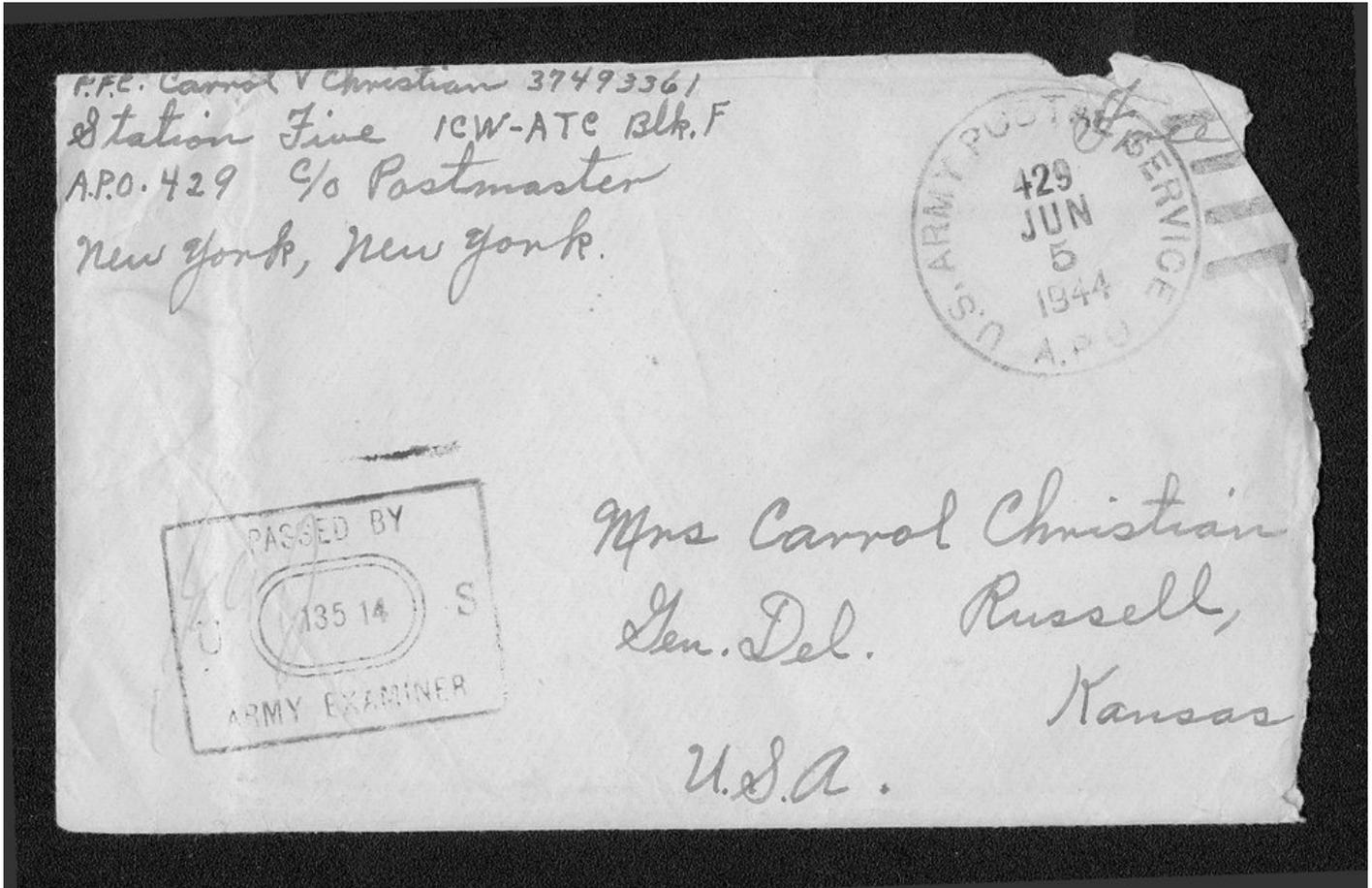
He does a better job of buying than I could do myself & gets things cheaper than I could.

I must write to teds & alicia also clark one of these days, am getting so I have lost all interest in writing especially when the mail situation is like it is now. Sure wish those magazines you ordered for me would get here as I sure could use some reading material.

Well bid guess this is all, hope this finds you & everyone all well. If I dont get some mail pretty soon am going on a strike or something.

With Lots of Love
Your Husband. Bob.

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India.

June 8, 1944

Dear Fluffy:

Have had supper & just got through taking a shower so now I will write a few lines to let you know I am ok.

This has been quite a long day for me, went to work at four o'clock this morning got off at twelve then had to go on the training program from one o'clock till four thirty so didnt get to take my afternoon nap. Most of the training is lectures but we also have to do some drilling & believe me it is plenty hot. The lectures are given where they have the show seats & is right out in the sun sure a nice warm place. My heat is starting to bother me again not quite as bad as last summer but suppose it will keep getting worse.

Finally got some mail today after about two weeks without any. Had four letters from you & one from Clark.

This letter was written the fifteenth of may



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& said he was leaving for home the next night for a funlough. Said he wished I could be there too, made me feel sort of homesick. your letters were from the fifteenth to the 25 of may. It had been so long since I had any mail that I have read them all about four times already. (ha) Sorry to hear your leg is still bothering you, hope it will be well soon. I think if you go to chydre you better stay away from donla's, stop taking care of other people & take care of yourself for a change.

In one of your letters you said you had mailed my package so guess it should get here for Christmas. (ha) Wish you hadn't sent your lighter as I could get along without it. I got a package yesterday from the folks & was sure surprised as I wasn't even looking for one. couldn't tell when it had been mailed so don't know when they did send it. They sent me writing paper, two pairs of socks, two wash rags, two handkerchiefs, 1 bar of soap, gum



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& of all things a comb. (ha) haven't combed my hair since I got here, I mean where my hair is supposed to be.

In your letter of may 25 you mentioned a few of the things you thought I was missing & believe me you sure hit the nail on the head. Would almost give ten years of my life right now just to spend one evening such as you described.

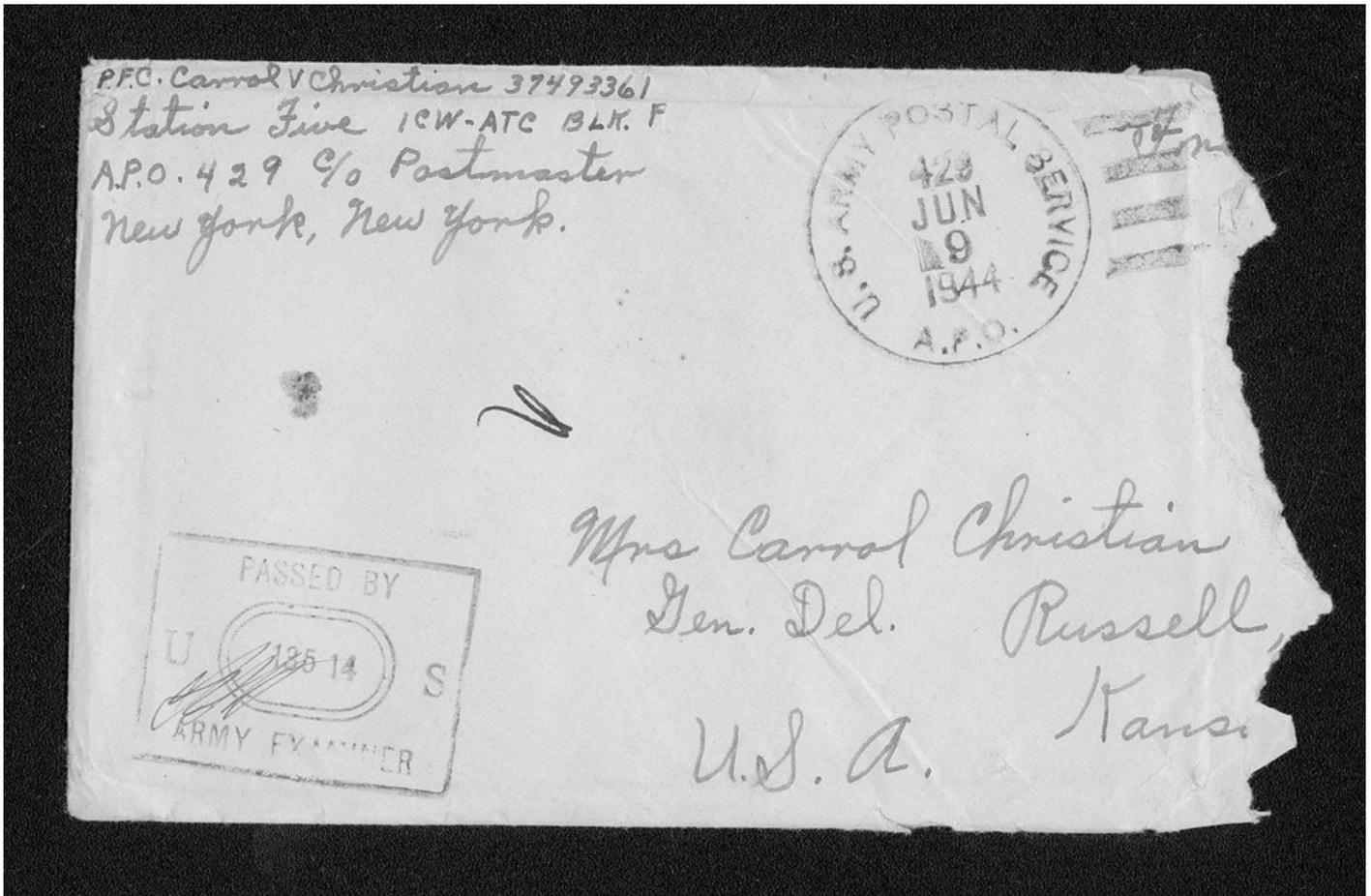
Tell La wanda I would sure like to see her & that I said she might write an old friend a few lines to sort of cheer him up.

yes I realize I will be 38 in october & there has been sort of a rumor here that men that old might be sent home sometime soon but think it is just all talk. anyway I am not planning very strong on it.

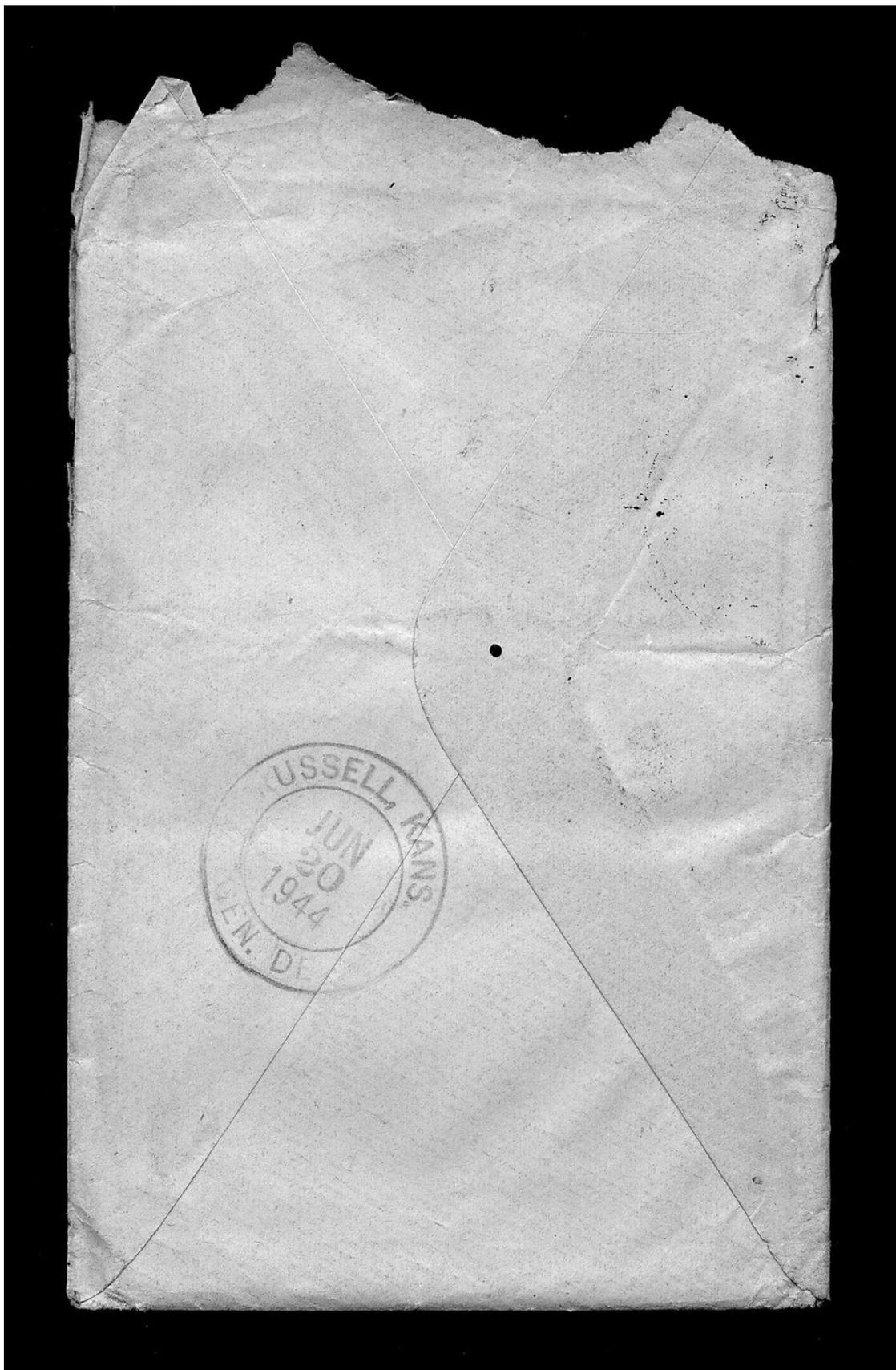
Well kid thanks a lot for the package you sent & thank the other's for me. Write often as I always feel much better after I hear from you.

With Lots of Love
Your Husband Bob.

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Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece





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India

Dear Fluffy:

June 11, 1944

How is the cripple by now? I am feeling fine only I think I am going to melt down to nothing, dont know where all the water comes from but it just seems to keep on running. I am sitting here writing & I have a face towel hanging around my neck to wipe the sweat off so it doesnt run all over this letter.

Had four letters today, two from you one from dorathes & one from the folks. yours was written the 18 & 26 of may & was glad to hear about your dad getting such a good job. Guess he is doing ok since he quit drinking, or is he still on the wagon? That sounds like it would be a very good job so he better do his best to hold on to it. Tell him I always wanted to be a traveling salesman so hold on till I get home so I can go along with him, you know the life of a traveling man is hard to beat