

Kansas Memory



Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondence

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

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

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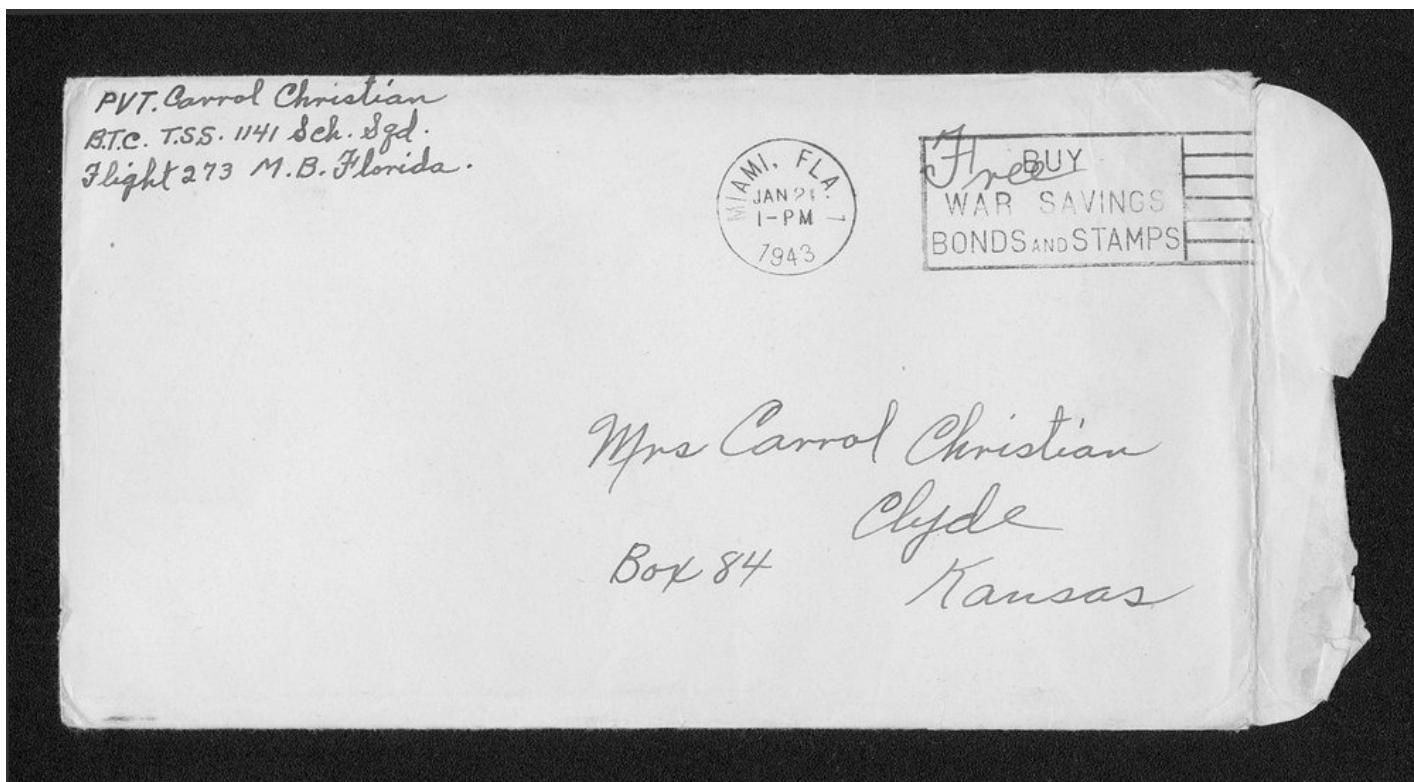
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Miami Florida
Jan 23, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Received your letter today so will write a few lines. I know my writing hasn't been very much but really don't have the time this is the busiest army camp in the whole world I think. Don't hardly have time to do all they expect us to do. Just got through washing my fatigue outfit and tomorrow I have enough clothes to wash I should have a washing machine.

Well today makes one month of army life seems like I have been gone about six. Sure do miss you especially at night don't have much time during the day to think about anything. We had a big day today had to parade before all the big shots we stood at parade rest and attention so long that several of the boys fainted and fell face first in the sand. The lieutenant told us after the parade that we had done very good so maybe we will be soldiers some day. After the parade we had to go and sign the payroll guess I forgot to tell you we got paid \$10 about two weeks ago, this time I will get \$35 dollars don't understand why I get so much but sure won't argue with them.

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Had a letter from mom yesterday she wanted me to send some post cards of the scenery here, well I have only been down town that is where the stores are located once since I got here that was sunday afternoon so you see I dont have much chance to buy anything like that.

One of the boys in my room is feeling pretty happy tonight he has arthritis and has been on the sick list most of the time, today the doctor told him he thought they could get him a discharge suppose it will take some time but he has something to look forward to any way.

How is lopy and rudolph guess you have quite a job there. What became of eve did she go home tell her I think she should write to her uncle bob once in a while sure appreciate letters in this army.

Clark said the first three months in the army was the hardest so you see I am now $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way dont know if I will last the other $\frac{2}{3}$ or not. (ha) Yesterday we got two more shots in the arm that makes five shots and one vaccination mine didnt take though. Well dont know anymore to write so will close and write mom a few lines. Take care of yourself and dont work to hard. Write when you can and keep your chin up.

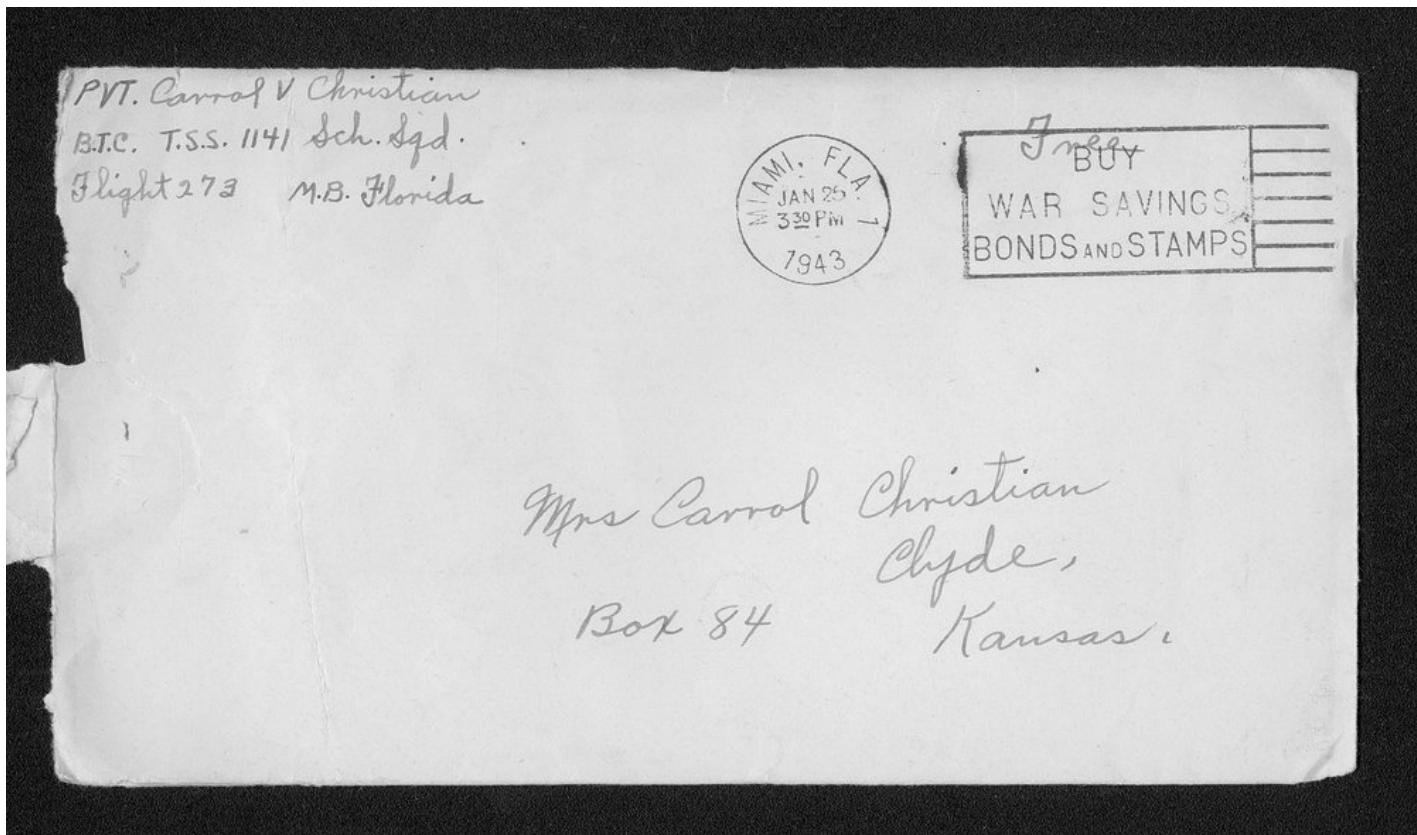
With lots of love,
P.V.T. Bob Christian

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Miami Florida
Jan. 24, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Received your letter this morning also the Clyde paper. How is the nurse getting along? you should be able to get a good job as nurse by the time you are through with lousy. Was glad to hear you get along with jack & rosella, thought they might try to make you a lot of trouble.

Well here it is sunday. wasn't there someone said that you should work six days and on the seventh day you should rest. I don't believe the army heard about that one. (ha) I spent all morning marking all my clothes this afternoon I have been washing dirty clothes still have to take a bath, shine my shoes and about half a dozen other jobs. Have guard duty tomorrow morning from 2 to 4, that means I get up at 1:30 go on guard duty till four and by the time I get back to my room it will be time to get up. They don't give you any time to sleep the next day and believe me when you get out in that hot sun you can almost sleep standing up.

one of the boys across the hall took sick this morning had an attack of appendicitis they

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Came after him in an ambulance and some of the boys said afterwards that they were going to operate so guess he will be out of the army for a while.

The menu today noon said we had chicken for dinner it was funny tasting chicken believe they shoot some of these old sea gulls and serve them to us. I have been rather lonesome for you lately and it isn't sex lonesomeness either, uncle sam must be serving us something in the food to take care of that or maybe it is just old age creeping up on me. (ha) It is a funny thing but I have never felt the slightest urge for sex relation since being here. They have showed us several pictures along with lectures along diseases caused from sex relations, some of those pictures sure would make you think a lot before having any sex relation.

How is rudolph, teds & alice and the rest of the gang getting along? still celebrating I suppose. Tell teds he better sign up as a cook and come down here to cook for us, bet he could beat these mess slingers that we have here.

Well dont know any more to write so will close and get to work again. Hoping to hear from you real often. With lots of love

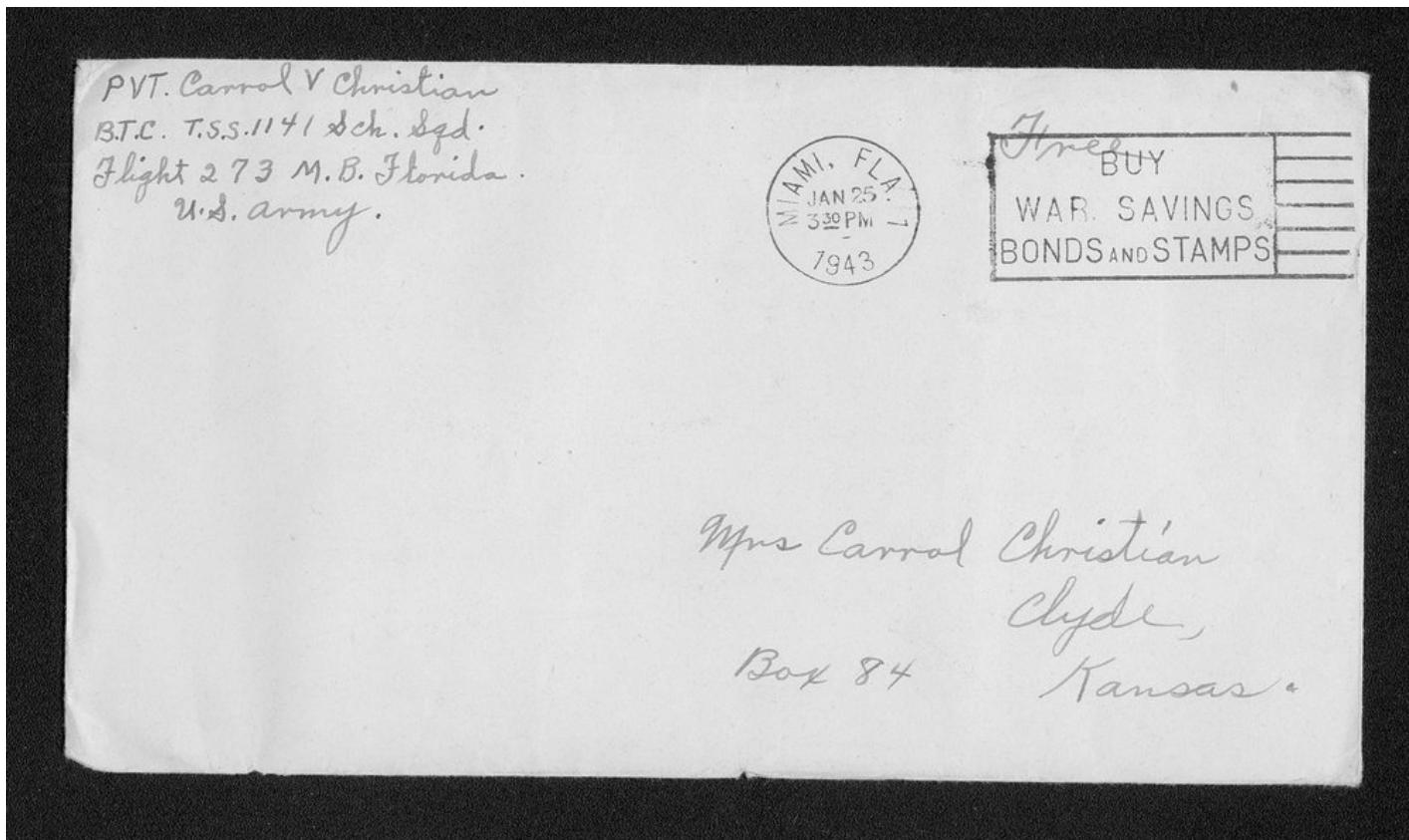
Your Husband
PVT. Bob Christian

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BASIC TRAINING CENTER
Miami Beach Schools
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

Jan. 26, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Received your letter this morning and you said two letters is all you have had. Sure dont understand that as I have written about ten or twelve letters and none of them has come back. I wrote one telling you to send a certified copy of our marriage Certificate and you never mentioned it so guess you didn't get that letter. If you never wish you would send it pretty soon of course we have six months to get it fixed but the sooner the better.

How are you getting along with your patient? Better take a little vacation once in a while let some one else take care of him or you will be getting sick. Really didn't think he would last as long as he has.

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Wonder if tedo and alice got the letter
I wrote to them, also wrote another
one to the folks and one to clark.

Am sure sorry you have ^{not} been getting
my letters but dont know what I can
do about it.

Well today makes eleven days of basic
training, now we are graduated from boy
scouts and are allowed to carry rifles
those things really get heavy when you
carry them about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles at a stretch.
You know I thought my physical condition
was pretty good before I joined the
army but have changed my mind now
they give us exercises that uses some
muscles that were never used before
or anyway that is the way they feel
the next day. Some, oh boy. (ha) Saw some
boys today that had taken all of their
basic training and 35 days of advanced
training now they have put them
back to their eleventh day of basic
training to start over again, so dont
know if we will ever get out of here
or not. They will let you stay here

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BASIC TRAINING CENTER
Miami Beach Schools
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

as a permanent party if you want to
but told them I wouldn't be interested
don't think it would be so good here
in the summer time.

The lieutenant got angry at all of
us yesterday and so we had to drill
after supper last night. went out as soon
as we had chow and drilled till nine
oclock. all of the boys took it good
naturedly and this morning we asked
the lieutenant if we couldn't do it
more often, you should have seen him
sure looked silly but finally said it
would be all right with him. Guess
he thought we would gripe to bat hell
but we sure fooled him.

This sounds rather funny but most
of the boys have bad colds here, I have
had more cold since being here than
ever had at home, don't hardly sound
possible because it is so warm

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here even at night we sleep with the windows open and have just one blanket to cover up with. Is it still so cold there?

Tomorrow we go out to the rifle range to do our first shooting sure hope I can hit the bull's eye. These rifles are large calibre guns and have straps on them to fasten on your left arm so they won't kick you so hard. Suppose a new some place will appear tomorrow night it will either be my shoulder or my near end dont know which it will be. Well I have to shave, take a bath, shine shoes and shine up my belt and mess kit so had better quit and get to work. Hope you have received some letters by the time you get this. write when you can and send that copy of our marriage certificate whenever you can find time.

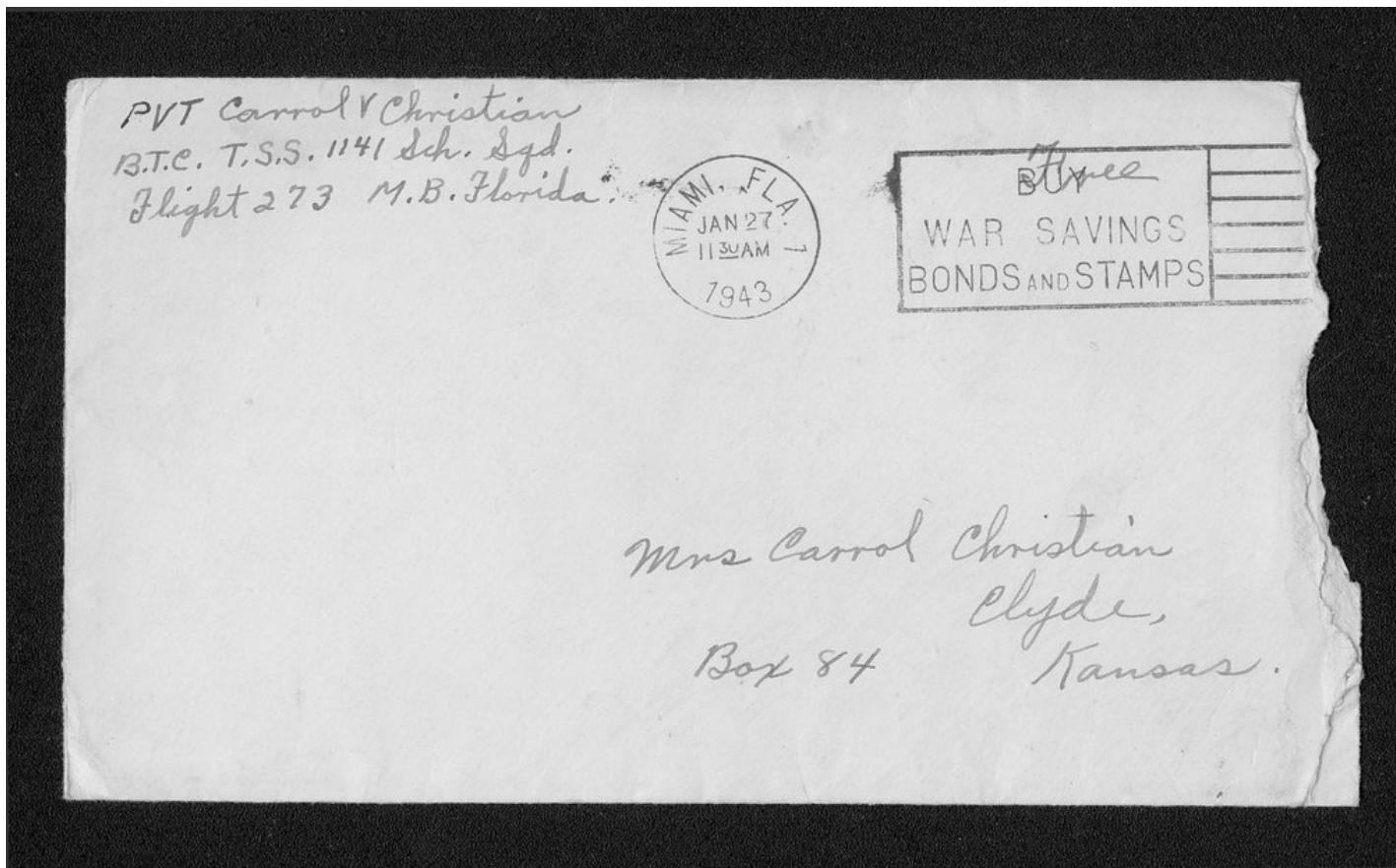
With lots of love
your husband
PVT. Bob Christian

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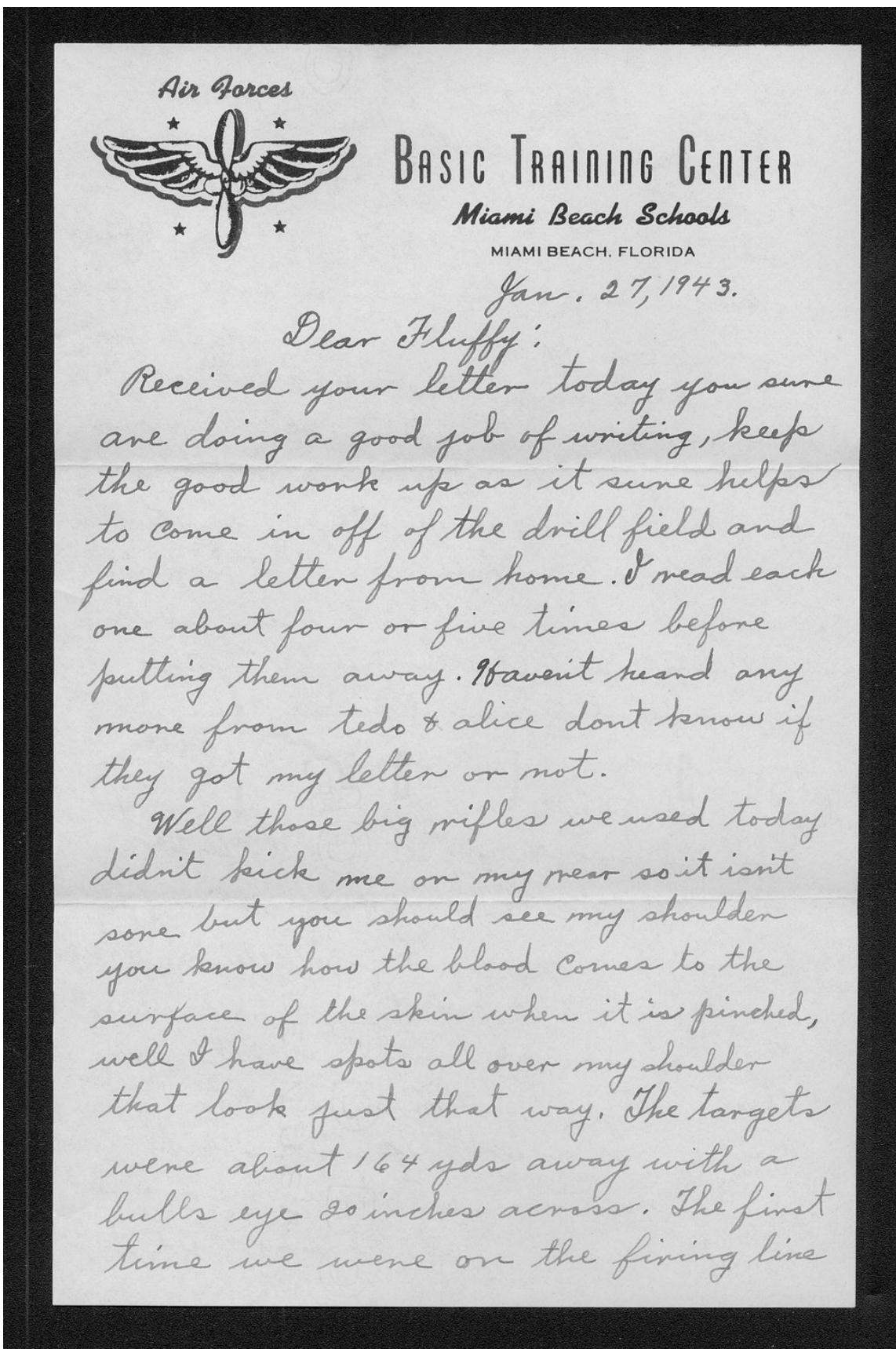


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we fired five shots each, I got two bullseye and the other three were in the next ring. The next time we fired 10 shots each and out of the ten I got one bullseye my shoulder was so sore believe I just shut my eyes, braced my feet and pulled the trigger.(ha) They didn't even take our score this time as the purpose of this was to get us used to the guns and how to lay in position to shoot.

So somebody told you that Florida was full of beautiful blondes, well all I can say is we must be in the wrong part because I haven't seen a good looking woman since I left home the best looking one I saw was a nigger and the only thing good about her was her form.(ha) Listen you talk about pulling my hair out dont believe you realize what a job that would be now, I got a hair cut tonight and believe me there isn't a hair on my head that you could get a hold off with your fingers so you see tweezers would be necessary to perform that

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BASIC TRAINING CENTER Miami Beach Schools

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

little job of pulling my hair.

Say you have been doing alright about the money proposition since I left if you do that good all the time I wont have to work for a while after I get home we can take a vacation for a few weeks at least.

How is tommy donnelly getting sure would be rather tough if he should happen to die so young, hope he is better.

You know mom wouldn't let us play football when we went to school because it was to rough, you should see some of the games they play here in physical training believe me football is a sissy's game compared to them. They get about 60 men put one man on another mans back then have a free for all the idea is to grab as many men as you can and throw them to the ground. Then they have races

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where one man takes another on his back half of the way and then change around the other half, the team that loses has to go through the mill. all of the winners line up in two columns and the losers have to run through them and they warn the seat of your pants while you are going through.

my cold is getting better and am beginning to feel like a human again. Havent been on the sick list since I got here, guess it doesn't do much good to go on sick call because they either give you an aspirin or a dose of Castor oil doesn't make any difference what ails you.

Well it is nearly ten o'clock and time for lights out so better close. I have written several letters since the 18th so you should get more.

With lots of love
PVT Bob Christian

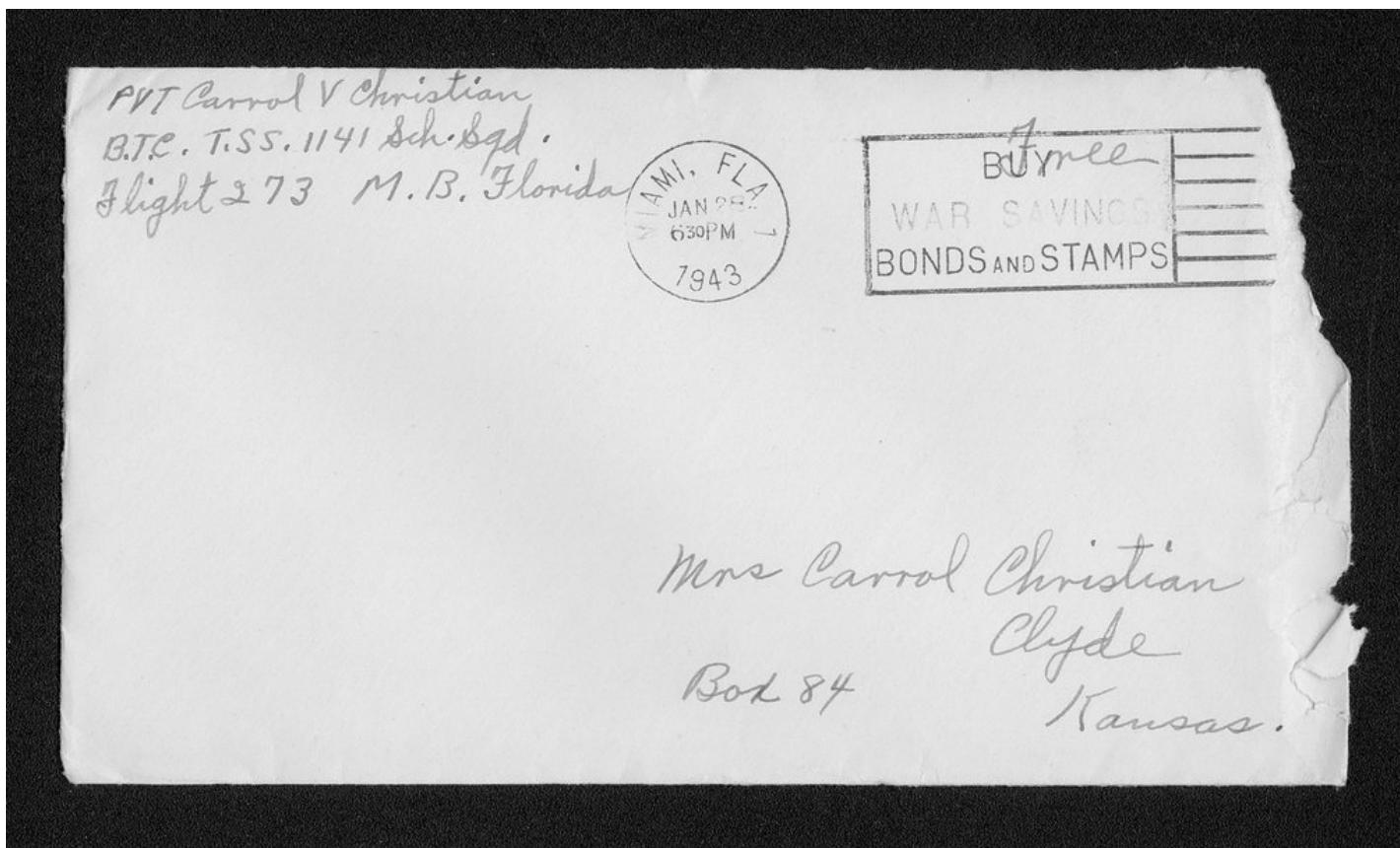
P.S. Dont worry about the blondes because they dont even look good to me. (Ma)

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BASIC TRAINING CENTER
Miami Beach Schools
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

Jan. 28, 1943

Dear Fluff:

Received another letter today so guess I had better pay you back. Was sorry to hear that rudolph is sick bet he is hard to get along with now. Tell him I said to take a big dose of that famous old fire water and also to take one for me, believe that should cure him dont you? I havent had any of that old fire water since I left and very little beer sounds hard to believe doesn't it? (ha)

You asked me how I would like to have a watch, well there isn't anything that would do me more good because I am sure lost without one, however dont go and spend a lot of money just to get me a watch as I can get along without one.

Well today was pay day that is

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most of the boys got paid. I along with about 12 others didn't git ours. That means we were either red lined and wont get any pay till next month or most likely we are to be transferred some place else. If they know you are to be sent some place else you dont get paid till you arrive at your other station. I understand they have a cook & baker's school right in miami city so we may be sent there of course I dont know. I still have plenty of money left for a while so am not worrying about not getting paid.

Last night it rained to beat hell the wind blew to beat hell too. This morning we just got out to the drill field and it started raining again so had to come back to our apt's. This afternoon the sun came out and believe me it was sure hot.

I dont suppose I will get to look up blondie's husband dont know where it is and dont have much time to look around very much.

Have you heard anymore from

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BASIC TRAINING CENTER

Miami Beach Schools

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

andy seifent. Sure believe this army life will be hard on him if he ever gets in a camp like this one.

So old teds is down with the flu didn't suppose anyone that took as much of that good old reliable medicine as he does would ever get the flu. How is alice getting along does she have some one to help her? Have you seen the folks lately, mom said dad had a bad cold was wondering how he is.

Are you through with your job now or do you have to go back again? Is rosella taking care of lopy now?

I took some clothes to the laundry night before last and it takes about a week to get them back, if they are figuring on transferring me may have a hard job getting my clothes.

We have more inspections, benc room inspection, clothes inspection, short arm

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about once a week guess you know what that is don't you? ha. The other day we had foot inspection my feet are breaking out with those blisters again guess I will have to go have them treated, they aren't bad but you are supposed to take care of every little thing.

Tomorrow we have another parade coming up so will have to look our best as the Colonel will be there to see what we look like.

Well it is nearly ten o'clock so better go to bed before the lights go out. You can keep writing until you hear different because they will either send them on to me or send them back. If you don't hear from me for a while don't worry because I may be taking another trip.

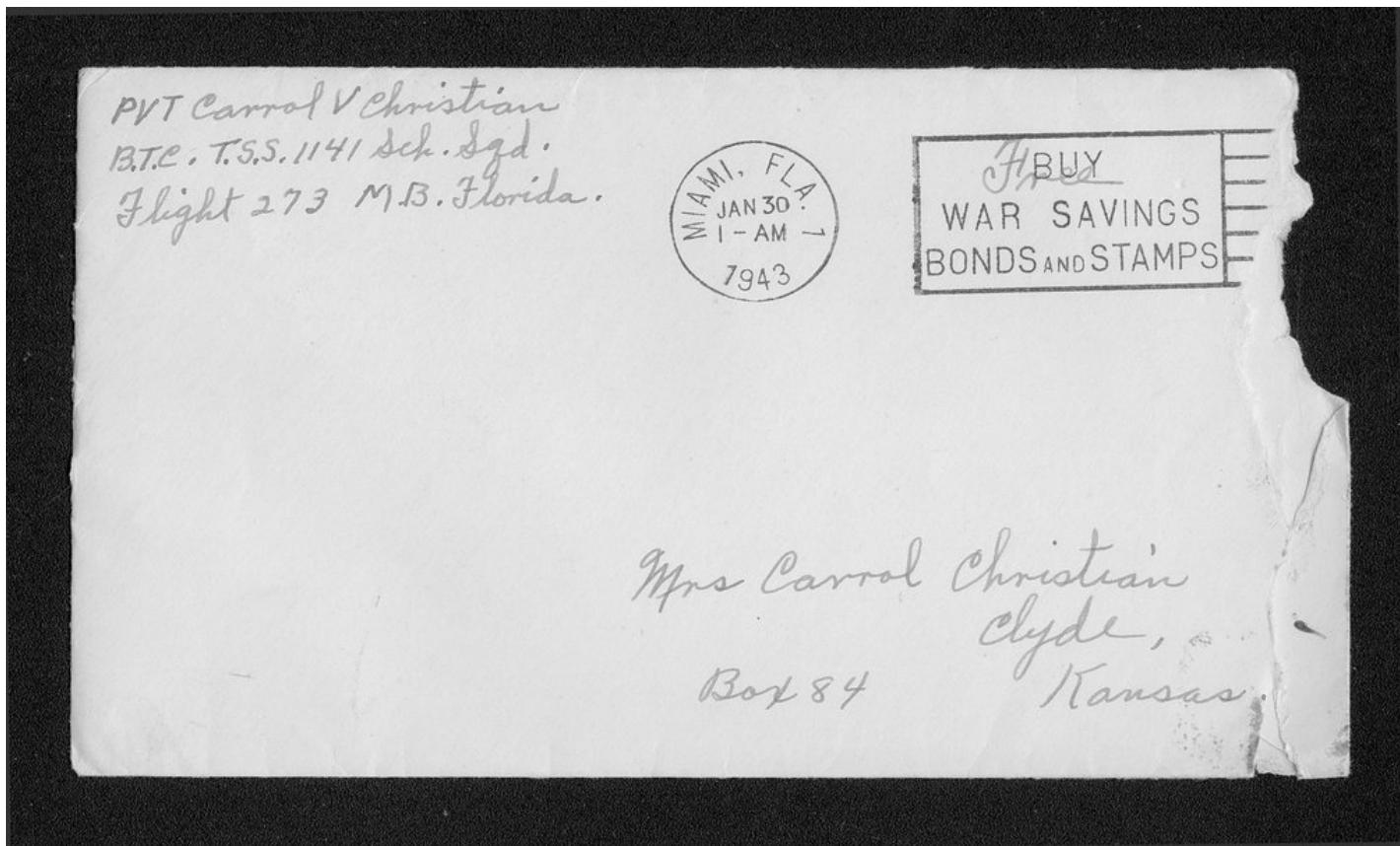
With lots of love
PVT Bob Christian.

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BASIC TRAINING CENTER
Miami Beach Schools

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

Jan 30, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

How are you? I am fine and found out for sure yesterday that I am on the shipping list, where, when or how I don't know. I guess it will be alright to write letters but wouldn't send any packages or anything like that till you hear from me again. I imagine we are going somewhere to cook & Bakery school. As long as we are on shipping don't have to do any drilling, K.P. or anything like that but we are restricted have to stay in our apts.

It rained here again last night right at chow time so didn't go to chow. Ate over at the P.X. which is just next door.

How is Rudy's cold better by now I hope.

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We didn't have to march in the parade yesterday they took part of us down to the beach and we had to wake up seaweed and bury it, they always find something for you to do even when on the shipping list.

well there isn't much to write about so guess I will close this time. will write as soon as possible after we are shipped.

With lots of love
PVT Bob Christian

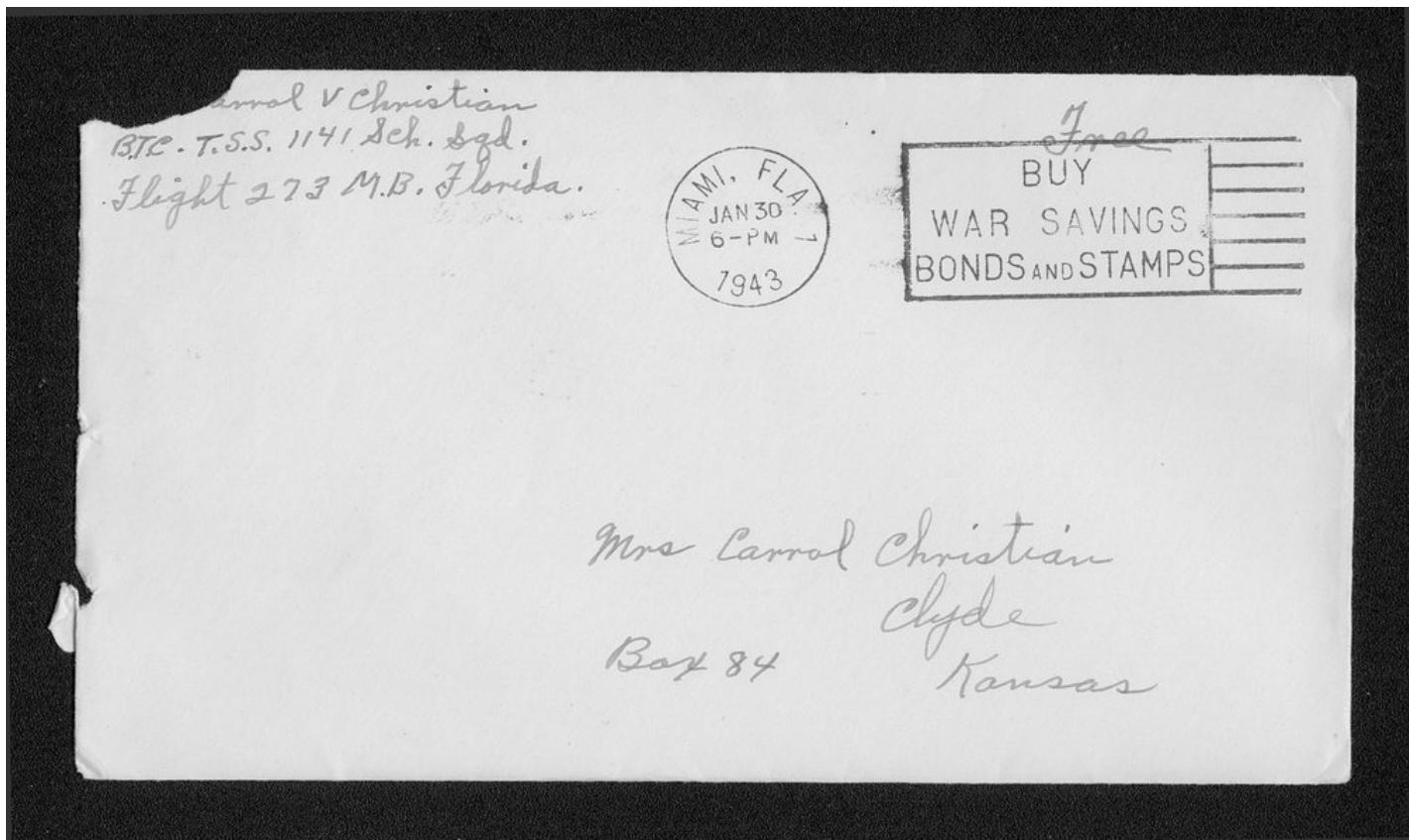
P.S. Received the copy of our marriage certificate yesterday but guess I won't be able to get it fixed here now. Will have to wait till I get to wherever we are going.

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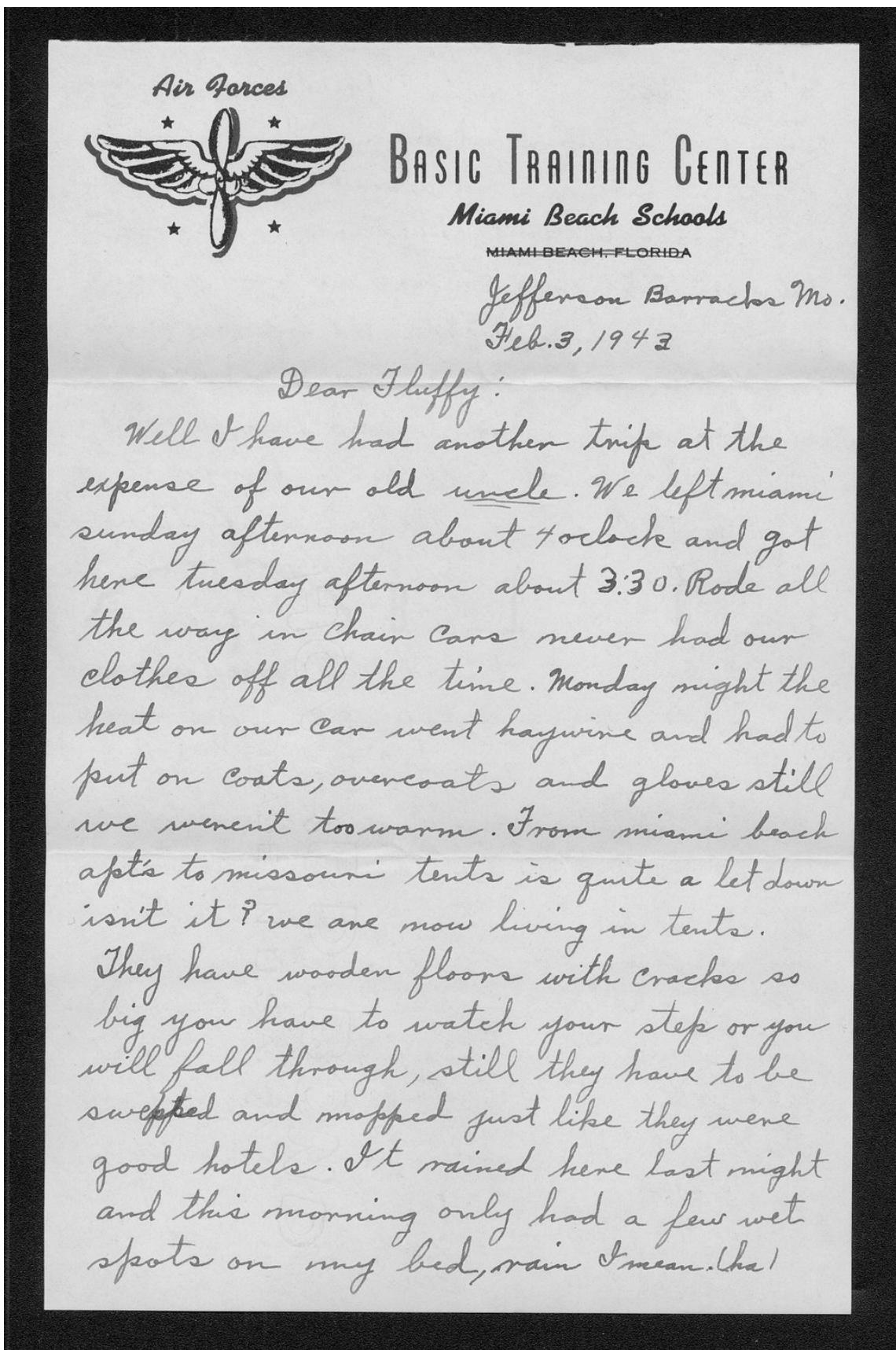


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There was only about 16 men out of the bunch that was at miami that came here so we are in a new bunch of men. We crossed the mississippi river also went through part of St Louis so saw a few more interesting sights. We are only about 99 blocks from St Louis now and we are allowed one pass each week from five o'clock at night till roll call the following morning may go to town one of these nights to see the sights. We are here to go to Cook & Bakers school for two months. one day we go to work at eleven and work till 7:30 or 8 at night the next day we get up at 3 in the morning and work till 1:30 PM between time we go to school, drill and also have detail work to do so we are going to be kept busy. So far we haven't had to go to work but have been busy getting bed clothing more clothes and getting lined out for school also short arm inspection, they have looked at that little thing of mine so often that all I have to do is whistle and he jumps right out (ha).

Havent had any mail since last

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BASIC TRAINING CENTER

Miami Beach Schools

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

saturday but suppose it is at miami, guess they will send it on but suppose it will be several days before I get any. Received your package and sure enjoyed it also the valentine had quite a time getting it together but finally succeeded. Got the certified copy of our license and turned it in at miami so that should be all fixed. They told us at miami we would get paid as soon as we arrived here and now they tell us we wont get paid till the last of february, still have plenty of money as we dont get the chance to spend very much.

Say that lighter you bought me sure comes in handy, matches are a hard thing to keep around here as everybody seems to be out, bought a bottle of lighter fluid this evening so now I will have a light for a long time.

How is rudolph and everybody else around clyde? sure get lonesome to see

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all of the old gang but guess it will be some time before I can ever get back there again.

After two months here we will be shipped again where I dont know, It seems you aren't in one place very long at a time.

Well I have to mail this letter, shave and clean up and shine my shoes so better close and get busy. I hope I get some mail before too long as it sure helps out a lot.

With lots of love and hoping you are well.

Your Husband
PVT Bob Christian

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