

## Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

### Section 7, Pages 181 - 210

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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today, could celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>  
if I had something to celebrate  
with (ha). They hire natives  
here to help in the mess hall  
instead of having N.P.S you  
cant understand them and they  
cant understand you so it is  
quite some trick getting them  
to do what you want them  
to do. The boys in the barracks  
also chip in and hire a native  
to do their work such as  
cleaning, shining shoes, washing  
and most anything you want  
done.

Cigarettes, soap and writing paper  
are very scarce here however  
I bought several cartons of cigarettes  
before I got here so will have

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enough to last me for a while.  
also bought a pipe and a whole  
canton of velvet tobacco.

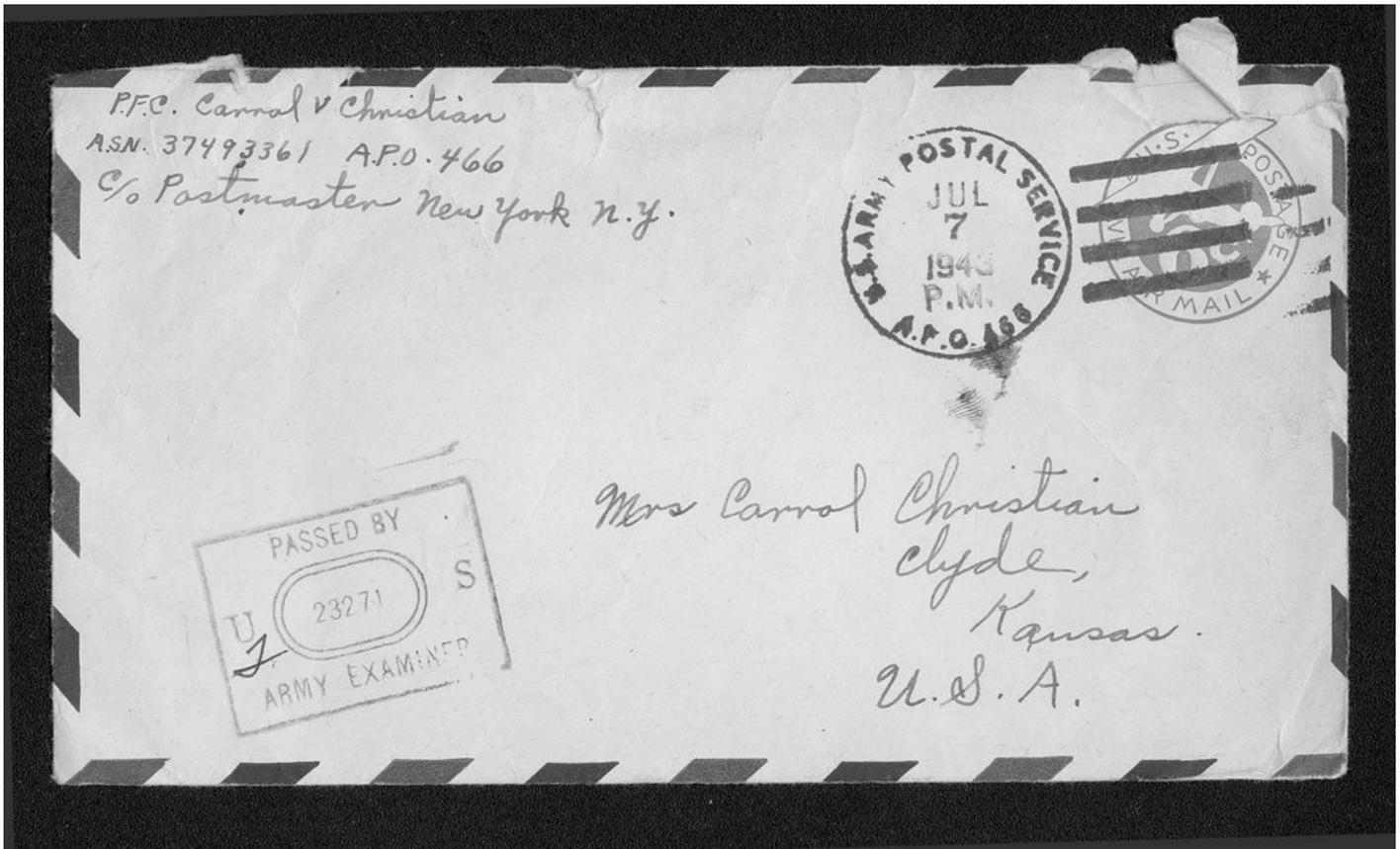
I am the only one out of the  
bunch that I knew at Kearns here.  
There was one other that I knew  
at the last stop we made before  
coming here but he was stationed  
there and I was sent on up  
here.

Writing from over here is rather  
a hard job as there isnt much  
you can write about only to let you  
know I am o.k.

Will close for this time hoping  
to ~~hear~~ hear from you and everyone  
soon.

P.S. Our A.P.O here      With Lots of Love  
is 466                      Carrol Christian

## Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece





Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India

July 10, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Just came back from supper. it is only six o'clock not quite bed time so will write a few lines to let you know I am ok. Went to the post office but it was the same old story, no mail. This writing letters and not getting any answer is rather a hard proposition not knowing what is going on back there.

This was my day off and spent most of it lying around in the barrack. This afternoon I went to get my hair cut we have a barber shop right here in camp run by a native the price is



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10 annas which is about 20 cents  
in our money. Tell old betts the  
next time you see him that if  
he wants to learn how to cut hair  
to come over here and take some  
lessons from the indians! (ha) They  
really dont do such a bad job.

We dont have to worry about  
lights out in this camp because  
we have no lights in our barracks  
no one to call us in the morning  
have been expecting to oversleep  
and not get to work but havent  
as yet. A flashlight would be  
a very handy thing to have here  
guess you can buy them in town  
but havent gone in yet.

Paper and envelopes are rather  
hard to get here, have quite a lot

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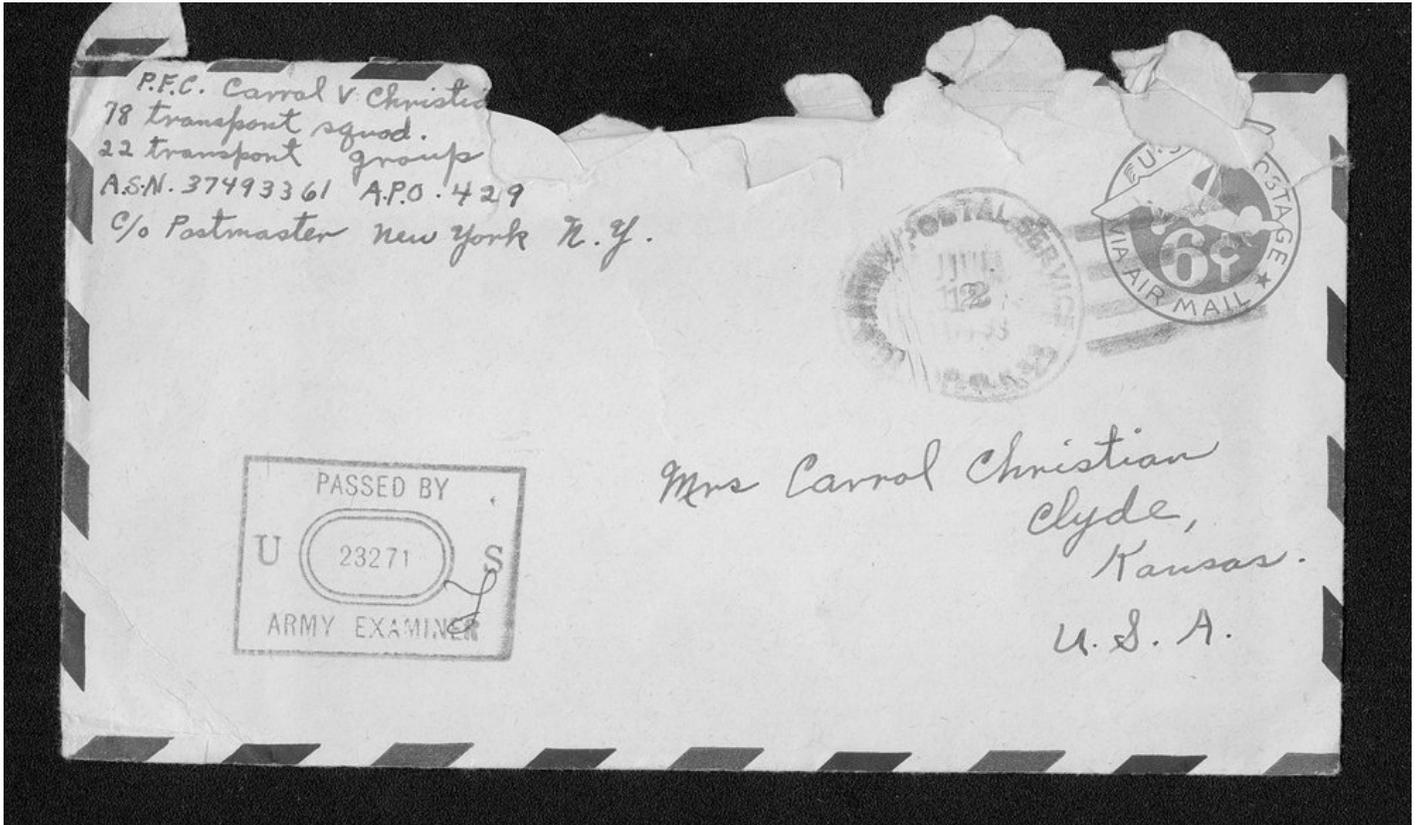
of paper but some of my envelopes stuck together before I got here so haven't got so many. Maybe you could put one or two in your letters when you write that would help out a lot, if I ever get any letters.

I am still at the same camp but our address has been changed as you will see on the letter.

Tell everyone hells for me and I will close for this time hoping to hear from you real soon.

With Lots of Love  
Your husband Bob.

## Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece



Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India

July 17, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Still haven't received any mail but guess I better write a few lines to let you know I am ok. Was going to write yesterday but they changed our working schedule here so we have to work two days and off one so I had to work yesterday and didn't have much time to write. The boss said it would only be for a few weeks till we get things cleaned up around the mess hall and then we would go back to our one day on and one off.

It is hotter than hell here and I am all broken out with

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a heat rash which is quite a nuisance with all this sweating.

How is everyone back there  
Suppose the harvest is all over by now, how was the wheat around home?

Do you remember the soldier that had his wife and baby, mother, staying in the hotel where you were at Kearns? Bunnell was his name. He just arrived in this camp night before last and is staying in a barrack right across the road from mine he is the only one from Kearns that I have seen here.

went to the show here last night and saw, "Gentleman Jim,"

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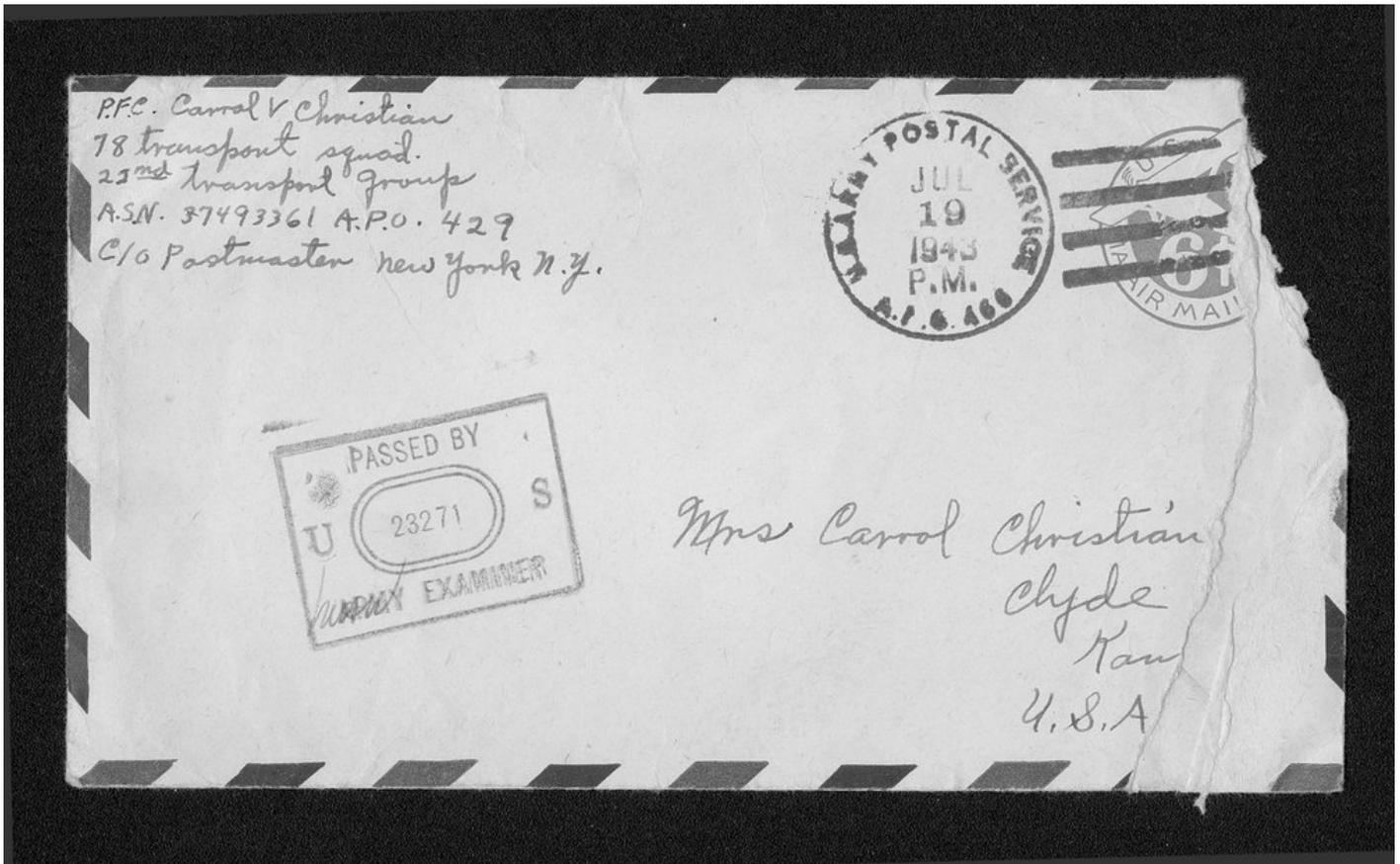
a picture on the life of James Corbett not a bad picture but sure is hot in the show house when you come out you are wet from head to foot.

With all this heat I can understand why it is so hard to get any work out of the natives, me I am getting so I even hate to write a letter or walk to the mess hall just naturally get lazy over here I guess.

Well dont know any more to write so will close. If I dont hear from over there pretty soon am going to start out and walk back there to see what the trouble is. (ha)

With Lots of Love  
Carrol V Christian

Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece





Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India  
July 22, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Just got through shaving & showering and it is 7:15 in the evening but guess I can write a few lines before it gets to dark.

I am feeling fine and are back on our schedule of one day on and one off which is much better.

Today was my day off so havent done much today. Went to the show this afternoon but I had already seen it in the states.

It was, "Girl trouble", think you were with me when I saw it.

We have showers here but have to pump our own water from a pump. They installed fans

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in the mess hall today, no not electric, but the kind you see in shows of tropic countries a big piece of fabric of some kind on a board with a rope tied on it which is pulled back and forth by a native. Anyway it is better than nothing at all.

Two more boys that went to school at J.B. the same time I did arrived here this week so some of the old gang is getting here together, one of them works on the same shift with me.

We got our rations from the P.K. yesterday which consisted of a Canton and a half of

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Cigarettes, two boxes of cookies a small box of candy and they had some envelopes & paper but ran out before I got there so didn't get any this time. Now they say that soon we will be getting good old american beer sure sounds good after this long time without a drink. of course I dont know how we would cool it but guess it would be alright even if it was hot. (ha)

Well it is getting rather dark so will close. Still haven't heard a word from home since I left bearns and am slowly pulling my hair out by the roots. Pulling my hair, what am I talking about? Ha. Write often and maybe some day I will get a letter. With Lots of Love. Bob. Christian

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## Dies in Grave He Dug For Body of Another

Dead in a grave he was digging for another man, the body of Emmanuel Schenberger of Cuba was discovered by his son who went in search of his father when Mr. Schenberger did not return home Monday evening.

Mr. Schenberger, pioneer of Cuba, had started to dig a grave in Tabor cemetery there for George Barton, 48, also of Cuba who died recently. Mr. Schenberger evidently was stricken with a heart attack as he worked.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at Cuba, and Rev. L. R. Templin of Concordia was in charge.

## Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece





Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India

July 27, 1944

Dear Fluffy:

How are you feeling by now? much better I hope. Went to the show last night & saw "rosie the riveter," it was a good show. Haven't anything to do tonight so I am writing letters. Just finished one to the folks the first I have wrote since I got back to camp, should have written sooner but am getting so I just hate to write a letter.

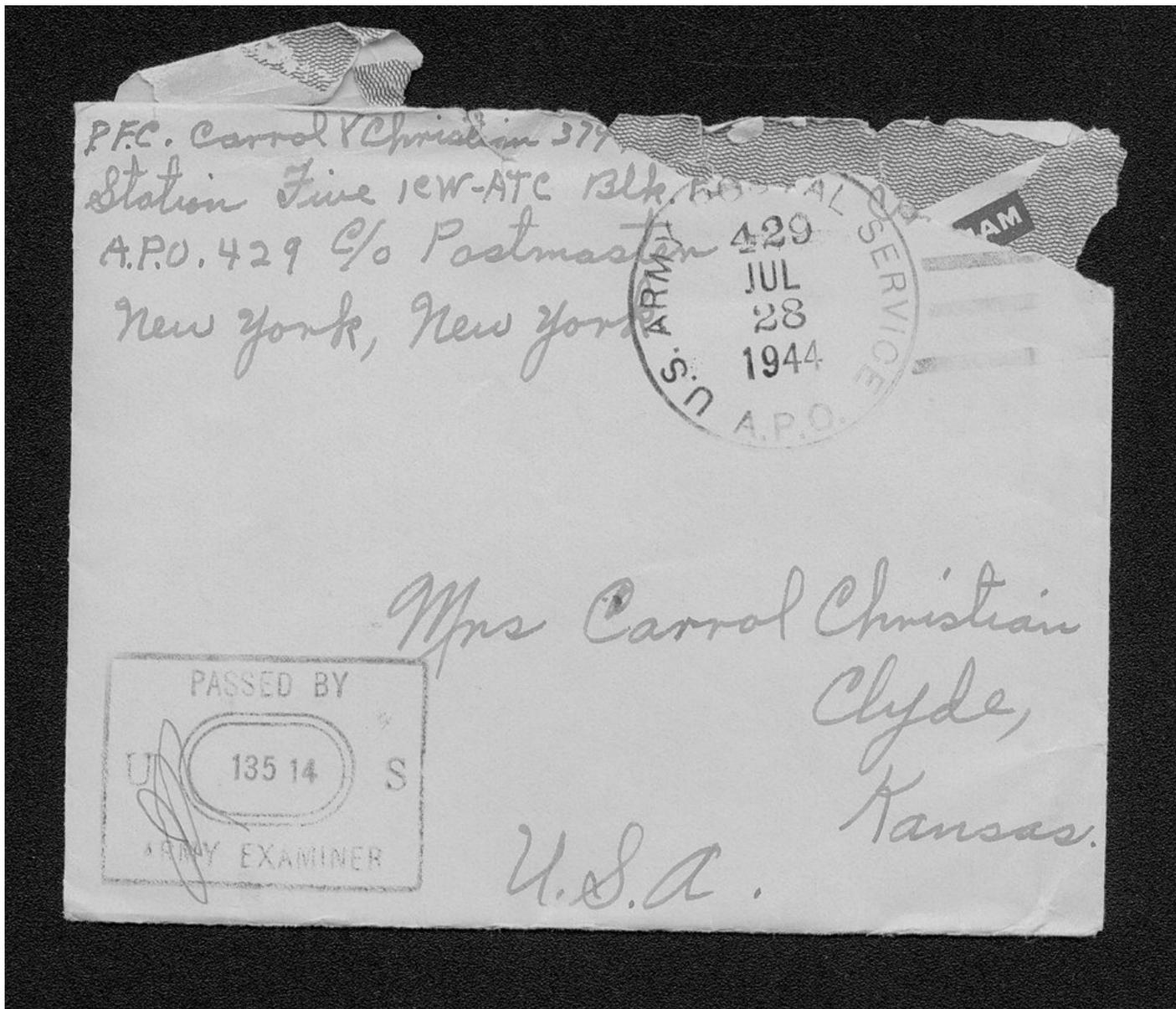
I am feeling fine outside of this heat rash I tell you my body is covered with heat rash just like spots on a turkey egg. (ha) I dont think anything will do it much good only cooler weather which will be about two months yet.

Didnt get any mail from you yesterday or today had one letter from the folks today but it had been wrote july 3 so it was rather old.

I have read one of the books they sent & started on the other one & sure enjoy reading them as it takes your mind off of things for a while.

There is nothing new here & the sweat is starting to pour off so am going to close. Hope this finds you feeling better. With Lots of Love. Bob.

Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece



Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India

July 28, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Just came from the mail room and still no mail have just about given up hopes of ever getting any mail. Am feeling fine except for the heat am broke out with a heat rash and is rather uncomfortable guess I haven't got broken in to this climate yet, maybe after two or three years over here the heat wont bother me. (ha)

Have been to town a few times but not much there of any interest. They have a british Canteen where you can buy coffee cake and sandwiches also a

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Chinese restaurant that serves fairly good food.

They are talking of doing away with the indian cooks at the mess hall which isnt going to be so good for us cooks, you can imagine how it is cooking over here in this heat.

How is everybody back there? am sure anxious to get some mail so I will know what is going on and what everybody is doing. Tell teds and alice to be sure and write also all the other friends around clyde.

Well I have to go shave & shower so better close for now. Hoping to hear from you soon.

With Lots of Love  
Carrol Christian

## Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece





Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India

Aug 3, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Just came from the mail room and got one letter from you dated July 10 and one from the folks July 11, that makes 11 letters I have got since leaving Kearns.

You said you were at Russell but was going on to Clyde so suppose that is where you are now. Was surprised to hear you had gone on to California but glad you went as it made a nice trip for you. This was supposed to be my day off but they woke me this morning and I had to go over to another area to help clean a mess hall, they

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are [REDACTED]

halls around here and it is quite a job getting them ready.

Had two letters from Clark, one telling me about his plane rides and saying I should try it some time, well believe me I have tried it now, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way round the world or better never got sick and sort of liked the riding after the first day. Guess you know by now that I am in india the land of Cobras dark women and enchantment?

For my part the indians can have all of it. This is one hot place if hell is any hotter am sure going to change my ways. (ha)

on our last P.X. ration each man got twelve cans of americana beer

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that is the first beer that has been  
in this camp. we had no way of  
cooling it but still it tasted rather  
good even if it was warm.

was sorry to hear about dad  
breaking his arm and at a busy  
time too. suppose if I had been in  
the states yet I could have got a  
discharge but no chance now I guess.

well guess I better close and write  
dank a few lines haven't written  
to him as yet. Write often and  
tell the rest of those buns around  
there to write you know that is  
a big thing over here, our mail.

I had to take three more shots over  
here indian cholera & typhoid and a  
tetanus stimulation got the last one today.

With lots of love  
Carrol Christian

## Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece



Carrol Victor Christian to Floriene Olive Graham Christian correspondece

India

Aug 11, 1943

Dear Fluffy:

Today is my day off so guess I better write a few letters. I am feeling fine and it has been much cooler here the last few days which is sure a relief. I got nine letters yesterday in the mail and believe me it sure seems good to get them. Had five from you, one from teds, 1 from alicie, 1 from the folks and one from clark. The latest was dated july 22 which was from you.

This v mail may be alright but dont like them so well as they really dont seem like a letter. So arnold is stepping out a little

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well I can sure tell you a good  
cure for that, just send him over  
here to india and believe me  
these black gals over here will  
knock all the romance out of  
him. (ha) I have seen about four  
or five white women since I  
left miami and they were  
british women. You remember  
the pictures they had in geography  
of the natives with rings in  
their ears and nose and a piece  
of cloth wrapped around them,  
well that is about what they  
look like here. Then they talk  
about romantic india, (ha) guess  
we must have landed in the  
wrong part. They have been  
fixing our day room here and

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have it so it is fairly nice now.  
We have chickens, Chinese checkers  
several books to read and also  
playing cards which lead to a  
lot of hot contests. (ha)

You asked about my ring and  
watch well I still have them  
with me and the watch comes  
in quite handy. You also asked  
what I wanted for my birthday,  
well just forget it this time as  
everything you have here rusts  
rots or molds even your clothes.  
So dont send anything of value as  
it would just go to waste here.

Did you ever get the letter  
I sent with the paper that  
I was sending \$1.50 per month  
home starting Aug 1? you

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have never mentioned it so was wondering if you had got it.

So ted & betts have been celebrating a little, sounds rather good wouldn't mind having a drink of good old american whiskey. you tell those two guys to go a little easy on that stuff and save a little for me when I get back. (ha)

Well guess I better quit for this time and answer a few of the other letters I got. Hoping you and everybody are ok.

With lots of Love  
Carrol Christian

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