

Pvt. J.K. Shelton, 33636290
Co. K, 289th Inf. APO #451
c/o Postmaster, Shreveport, La.

Shreveport
Apr 2
1 AM
1944
LA.

Miss Sally Loving
5817 No. Wash. Blv'd.
Arlington
Virginia

Please forgive scribbling, but writing conditions are not as good as they might be, Thanks for Post-Script. Same Wright is now Sargent.

March 30, 1944

Dear Miss Loving,

I received your letter today. There has been a little change in my address – in fact, in my whole life.

The ASTP closed up a couple weeks ago and we were shipped to Camp Polk, La., even the advanced engineering students. We were in Camp Polk for from [illegible], were issued rifles & field equipment & were transported to the woods of Texas. Since that time I have been on maneuvers in Texas & Louisiana. I'm in the "Blue" army of the 75th Division of the 4th Army of the U.S. We've been having quite a time wading through swamps, taking 20 mile marches, sleeping in the rain, & going without food for about 2 days at a time. The infantry is a pretty rough life, especially on a newcomer like myself.

I guess you are wondering why the ASTP went into the Infantry. They tell us that we were put here to raise the combat efficiency of the Infantry. In the past, the Air Corps had priority, & consequently, the Infantry was drained of it "intelligentsia." Now the infantry has priority & all of the available "intellects" will go into the Infantry.

As I said, it is a pretty rough life, but it will at least build me up physically. The unit I'm with consists of boys that have been in the Infantry for at least a year. Some as veterans of Bataan & Guadalcanal. At the present I'm in a motor squad. There is very little chance for quick advancement, for the non-com positions are all filled by "old-timers." The division is going to Camp Breckinridge, Ky. in another week or two – take some more training, and then jump across "that big pond." My only regret in being with them is that it puts my education to a standstill. I'm making a lot of friends, especially with the ticks, chiggers, snakes, & mosquitos. I have little to complain about for most of the boys have been out here since January. They have not had a real haircut, bath, or anything since then. One learns to appreciate those little things once he is away from them.

I wrote to Claude last week, but haven't heard from him yet. Give my regards to everyone & tell 'em I'll write eventually ~

Lovingly,

"Jake"