

NAME: Russell

RANK: Corporal

ORGANIZATION: 14th Air Force

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: China Theater of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime letters written by Russell. These are the only letters from Russell in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts aside from edited racial slurs for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Russell writes his parents in the United States:

“‘SOMEWHERE IN CHINA’

11 OCTOBER 1944

NUMBER 27

WELL, THE WEATHER OVER HERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD ISN'T SO GOOD. IT HAS RAINED FOR SOME TIME. THE SUN WAS OUT FOR A WHILE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BUT IT RAINED ALL NIGHT AND SOME THIS MORNING. IT HAS STOPPED NOW BUT IT IS DAMP AND CHILLY HERE NOW. THE SECTION CHIEF IS JUST ABOUT STARTING A FIRE TO TAKE THE CHILL OFF...I'M STILL AT THE SAME PLACE IN CHINA. IF I MOVE, I WILL HEAD MY LETTERS 'SOMEWHERE ELSE IN CHINA'. NOW I SHALL TRY TO ANSWER YOU AIRMAIL OF THE 26TH...

...HOW MANY YEARS DOES THIS MAKE DAD, THAT YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE MASONS? IT MUST BE AT LEAST TEN. I WISH I HAD JOINED THE MASONS BEFORE I CAME INTO THE ARMY BUT I DIDN'T SO THERE IS NO NEED OF CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK.

WE HAD 'MADAME CURIE' AGAIN MONDAY NIGHT, BUT I DIDN'T GO. STAYED IN THE TENT AND READ 'THE D. A. HOLDS A CANDLE' BY ERLE STANLEY GARDINER. AM READING THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE. THAT IS ONE MAGAZINE THAT I LIKE VERY MUCH. THE BEST FEATURE IS THAT THERE ARE NO CONTINUED STORIES IN IT.

JUST FINISHED TYPING OUT THE NEWS. ONE OF THE BOYS GOES OVER TO OPERATIONS AND LISTENS TO THE RADIO AND BRINGS THE NEWS BACK AND I TYPE IT OUT FOR THE REST OF THE BOYS TO SEE. IT IS PRETTY GOOD THIS MORNING.

THE C _ _ L _ _ S AND FARMERS ARE OUT BESIDE THE RUNWAY BREAKING ROCK. WHOLE FAMILIES ARE HARD AT WORK. IF A YOUNGSTER IS BIG ENOUGH TO LIFT A HAMMER, HE IS PUT TO WORK. OCCASIONALLY YOU SEE A FATHER PUSHING A WHEELBARROW LOADED WITH STONE AND HIS YOUNGEST SON PULLING IT WITH HIM.

WE ARE STILL HAVING EGGS FOR BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME CEREAL BUT AS ALL OUR MILK IS THE POWDERED VARIETY THAT COMES FROM THE STATES, WELL WE JUST WOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH. WE ALSO HAD SOME NICE FRENCH TOAST THIS MORNING. ONCE IN A WHILE WE HAVE SOME PANCAKES.

WELL, I GUESS THIS IS ALL FOR NOW...

...TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES AND GOD BLESS YOU BOTH AND KEEP YOU IN GOOD HEALTH.

ALL MY LOVE,

RUSSELL"

Russell writes his parents again in the United States:

"China #233

25 July 1945

What do you know? I had the afternoon off and went to town with the 'shorty' of our Outfit...we got a ride in with an officer and an enlisted man. Arriving at our destination the officer asked us if we would give him a few minutes of his time. Not being in a hurry we agreed that we would. What he wanted us to do was go down the street a short ways and walk toward him as he took our picture with a movie camera. The enlisted man walked with us and he pointed out to us that the pictures that the lieutenant was taking, would be released in the states, so don't be surprised if you should go to the movies some night and see me walking towards you. There will be three of us walking along the side walk and you will probably notice some big urns that we passed.

After that we did a little shopping...we also ate 6 dishes of ice cream. It was good but not a good as stateside

We walked around some and about four o'clock decided to return to camp, so we each hopped into a rick sha and rode back. Of course we were very tired...

...It was two days with out mail this time so it wasn't so bad on our morale.

I am going to the movies tonight and see Ann Miller in 'Edie Was A Lady.' Should be pretty good.

Well, I guess that this will be all for tonight. Take care of yourselves and God bless you.

All my love

Russell"

- Russell made it through the Second World War but when he passed away is unknown.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the above time period and Russell's organization (viewer discretion advised):**

<https://archive.org/details/FB-196>

- For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Russell's wartime organization, the 14th Air Force (reader discretion advised):
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourteenth_Air_Force