



No. \_\_\_\_\_

SGT. PAUL D. OATES 35211553

HEADQUARTERS, COMM. ZONE I  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
USAGOS, A.P.O. 501  
C/O POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

REC. WILLIAM R. OATES  
(Receiver's name)  
576TH. D. I. SQDN.  
(Receiver's address)  
D. A. A. F.  
DEMING, NEW MEXICO

MAY 26, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

HI LITTLE ENGINEER ----  
AT LAST I AM WRITING A LETTER TO YOU, I BET YOU ARE SURPRISED - I AM, SINCE YOU LEFT I HAVE MOVED TO THE DESERT, WHERE IT DRY AND HOT, - MAYE YOU ARE IN THE SAME KIND OF CLIMATE. I REMEMBER THE NEW BARS OF THE EARLY PART OF MARCH. LAST WEEK I WENT AND SAW BOB GET HIS WINGS AND HIS LITTLE GOLD BARS, AS WELL AS I CAN REMEMBER I DID NOT SALUTE HIM, SINCE I COULDN'T BE THE FIRST ONE AND THEREBY I DID NOT GET A DOLLAR FROM HIM AS AN OLD TRADITION SAYS HE MUST PAY THE FIRST PERSON WHO SALUTES HIM ONE DOLLAR. HE SAID SOME PRIVATE SALUTED HIM BEFORE HE COULD GET HIS BAR ON HIS COLLAR. HE WAS TRYING TO FIND HIM WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON, ALL THE NEW LOUISES LOOKED ALIKE AT THE GRADUATION EXERCISES. I HAD TO GO BACK TO HIS BARRACKS TO FIND HIM. MOM WROTE ME AND TOLD ME THAT ARTHUR WAS HOME AND SAID THAT HE THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO GET COMMISSION. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT ? IF CHARLES GETS TO BE AN OFFICER AND ARTHUR GETS HIS, YOU AND I HAD BETTER GET BUSY, ESPECIALLY ME WHO IS ONLY A PRIVATE FIRST CLASS.

BOB HAD PUT ON A LOT OF FAT SINCE WE LAST SAW HIM, HE IS 200 LBS. OF OAT(ES) NOW. WITH HIS G.I. HAIR BUT HE LOOKS ALMOST BALD, AND DOES HE GET A LOT OF KIDDING ABOUT IT. YOU CAN REMEMBER HOW VIC TEASED ME, WELL, WAIT TILL HE GETS A HOOT OF BOB WHO WILL BE HOPE IN A FEW DAYS.

AFTER MY SCHOOLDING, I HAVE ENDED UP WORKING IN A SUPPLY ROOM HERE. WHEN I CAME HERE, THEY ASK US WHAT WE HAD DONE IN CIVILIAN LIFE AND WHEN I SAID THAT I HAD LOVED AROUND THE GARAGE IN KEYSER, THEY WERE VERY INQUISITIVE ABOUT THE STOCK ROOM. I HAD HELPED A LITTLE IN THE STOCK ROOM THERE, SO I FOUND MYSELF IN THE SUPPLY ROOM HERE BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE IN THE GROUP HAD EVER DONE ANYTHING ALONG THAT LINE. I LIKE MY JOB, BUT I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE IN IT FOR THE DURATION. WHEN I GET MY YEAR IN, IN GOES MY APPLICATION FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

DO YOU STILL GET "THE REVIEW"? BILL FRANK POWNALL WASHED OUT AS A PILOT, HE COULDN'T LEARN TO LAND WHICH WASHED OUT QUITE A LOT OF FELLOWS WHERE IN THE CITY WHERE I WENT TO SCHOOL. GENE THARP IS NOW A FLYING CREW CHIEF, WHICH MEANS THAT HE IS A MECHANIC ON THE GROUND AND A GUNNER IN THE AIR. HE WILL BE SEEING ACTION SHORTLY. HIS MOTHER DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE IS DOING IN THE ARMY, SHE THINKS HE JUST WORKS AROUND AIRPLANES AND WHEN SHE FINDS OUT SOMEONE IS GOING TO CATCH IT. IT MIGHT BE ME BECAUSE SHE GOT ALMOST ALL HER INFORMATION FROM ME WHEN I WAS HOME IN APRIL. I DIDN'T TELL HER THE TRUTH SHE WOULD HAVE THROWN A FIT IN CORBETTS DRUG STORE.

I AM RUNNING OUT OF PAPER, SO WRITE WHEN YOU GET TIME, AND IF ANYTHING INTERESTING COMES UP I WILL LET YOU KNOW ABOUT IT. SO LONG

**V-MAIL**  
Bill

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dgt. Paul D. Oates 35211553

HEADQUARTERS, COMM. ZONE I  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
USAGOS, A.P.O. 501  
C/O POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

REC. Mrs. R. F. Oates  
(Receiver's name)  
Romney  
(Receiver's address)  
W. Va.  
May 28, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul,  
Just-Recd your letter you wrote May 26 my was ur glad to get hear from you and to get your picture. Arthur came back from Wash Monday nite and Bob came Tues noon. Bob look so big his wt. is 200 lbs. Oh happy he is that he has got those wings. He will leave from Fla. Tues to take nite training. Arthur will leave to enter The Army June 18. Charles wont go until fall I reckon if I had five more soap they would want to go too. Oh! I am very proud of them all. And the envelope that some day you all can come home. Mildred and her boys come down yesterday. The boys will take her back Sat. nite. "Bill" was over to see "Bob" graduate last wk. He said they had a big time. Bob has good work uniform and done he look nice. Let me know about this & mail weather you can read it or not and how soon you reciv. Yst. I will rite soon again. little late this wk. Write soon again. Do be carefull. too long. Love Mother Oates

**V-MAIL**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sgt. Paul Oates 35211553

Engr. Hq. Co., Comm. Zone I  
A.P.O. 501, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

Adm. R. Oates  
(Receiver's name)  
509 Thompson Street  
(Receiver's address)  
Charleston, West Va.  
June 7, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul,  
They tell me it's winter in your present location. Believe me, I could do with a little winter myself right now. It's hotter than you-know-what here. But it makes the vegetables grow! I'm becoming a good gardener, with a highly developed ability for making the weeds fly. Mabel admires my potatoes with the seeds - sometimes I wonder whether she's isn't "using" me, for she doesn't like to weed!

Since I last wrote you, my business "career" has undergone an upheaval. My boss's term as a member of this Commission expired on May 31 and the Governor appointed another man to succeed him. This was quite a blow, as you can well understand, for Mr. N. had been a commissioner for sixteen years. But things do happen to the best of men. And, to be philosophical about it, I suppose he fared better than most men in appointive offices. Few are privileged to serve sixteen years. My boss has no immediate plans, but I do hope he's able to go into some other work very soon, for he's been in harness too long a time to suddenly spend his days in idleness. For the time being I am secretary to the new man, but he will probably select his own girl pretty soon. I've been told that I may remain at the Commission, but in what capacity I have no idea. It's that vagueness that displeases me. After all, I have a certain pride myself, and to suddenly descend from secretary to stenographer is rather likely to strain my nervous system, what! All this business is particularly trying in the summer. I like to take things easy when the thermometer is high!

People still travel by car between Keyser and Charleston. Some friends of Mabel's dropped in for a little while one day last week. But when we shall ever be able to make that trip again is as hard to guess as when the war will be over. It would be good to see the family, believe me, for I've not been home since last November. Oh, I've gone a whole year without seeing the folks, but in recent years I've been home frequently. But that was wife's do wish.

Not only an announcement of his graduation. Something thing it was: "Williams Field, Army Advanced Flying School, Chandler, Arizona, announces the graduation of Class 42-B, Pilots, Thursday morning, May twentieth, thirteen hundred and forty-one, Williams Field." The commas are mine, you understand. And the enclosed card, "Robert E. Oates," with "Lieutenant Air Corps, Army of the United States," does in the corner in minute type. Oh boy! Wish I could have been there. The announcement came the middle of May and I haven't written to Bob yet! He sent his a present or something. My personal services are partly responsible for my neglect, but I've really been waiting for a letter from him, giving me his new address. He expected to be transferred immediately after graduation, and I can see no reason in coming mail to the old address. However, if we not heard from him, so I shall have to take a chance on a letter being forwarded to him.

How does it go with you? I'm eager to have another letter from you and do hope that you will write soon. Be my V-Mail, won't you? Have the code diggers marked the art of mixing a good code? I suppose you have no trouble whatever with the code of the main now. Yours,  
Ada

No. \_\_\_\_\_

SGT. PAUL OATES 35211552

Hq. Comm. Zone I, Office of the Engr  
USAGOS - APO 501 c/o Postmaster  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

2nd Lt. Leo N. Toba HQ9716  
(Receiver's name)  
Co. H 26th Engr. Bn., A.P.O. 240  
(Receiver's address)  
11th Arm'd Div., Co. Folk, Ia.  
12 June 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Hello Paul,  
I received a letter from John C. Powers and he forwarded your V letter to me and it was swell to hear how you are getting along and where you are. Previously I have written two letters to you and received no answer, figuring you either lost my address or didn't receive the two letters.

I have been keeping close contact with ole Powers and he gives me all the information on the men from the old cadre. I suppose Fort Wood looks good by now because they have done enough repairs on the post.

When I went through O.C.S. I ran across several of the men you and I trained together back there and some already have gone through. Some of the Officers down here went through Ft. Wood and they have the same story about the place as you and I.

This is a pretty good camp and one of the best for training purposes, its plenty hot at present and the mosquitoes, bugs, snakes and the swamps gives us a little trouble. If we take a truck off of the road its almost sure that it will bog down in the swamps overnight.

If you and I received the training like the men down here are receiving in their basic training we would have been much better off. Man I'm telling you this is real training down here. They receive the same thing I received at Ft. Belvoir and if these men go through O.C.S. it would be a snap for them. I had very little trouble going through myself because it was just like back at Fort Wood.

These Engineers put in long hours down here and continue on these problems we go for twenty-four to forty-eight hours straight without stopping, they're really tough and rugged and I'm proud to be over a bunch like this. As for my work out in the field I'm attached to another Battalion for Engineer technical advice, in fact its the 8th company and when they come up to a bridge they call on me for the capacity of it, the amount of time it would take to lay a certain portion of corduroy road, or the time required to reconstruct a new bridge or to repair the old one. The time to remove a minefield, or a bridge that is ready to blow. At times it has me sweating when these medium tanks go over my estimated bridges, thus far none of the tanks have gone through any of my bridges, lucky me. When we aren't out in the field I'm in charge of a platoon, usually go out and reinforce some bridges, or some other kind of Engr. work. In other words I'm Reconnaissance Officer of the company and when in the field I work under the General personally who is in charge of half of the entire division and believe you see my work counts a hell of a lot in these bridges and roads etc. If I ever go into battle I know right now from previous field experience that I will be capture or killed without a doubt. I get capture on these field problems by the Reds most of the time because I'm right out in front and keep working until one of their airplanes usually gets me.

All and all this is a pretty good life pal and I like it pretty well, its true we don't make much money but we have one hell of a good time when we can. If you answer this letter after 21 June, address it—Hq. 11th Arm'd Div. A.P.O. 261, c/o Postmaster Shreveport, La. because we go on maneuvers this date.

Last Monday I returned from a twelve day leave and I'm telling you I really had a time at home because to me it was my last. I've been luckier than hell in getting home pal, since I left you at Wood in Oct. I have been home several times, and twelve days at different intervals.

Its about time I brought this matter to a close and don't forget to answer this time pal because I really would like to hear from my ole roony and buddy, so take care of yourself and the best of luck to you pal.

Your ole buddy,  
TOBE

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.   
 (CENSOR'S STAMP)   
 Sgt. Paul D. Cates-35211573   
 Mrs. R. F. Cates (Sender's name)   
 Hdqrs. Comm. Zone 1   
 Romney (Sender's address)   
 Office of the Engineer, USA   
 W. Va.   
 Post Master, San Francisco Calif.   
 June 26, 1943 (Date)

Dear Paul, Rec'd your letter 24th so glad to here from you. Haven't heard from you for two wk. Keep those letters coming boy, I hope you have hear from Bob? Since he got to his new place, in days he certainly enjoying swimming there. They have nine lakes in Orlando, he says he in for some hard studying, but it was lots of fun to fly those big planes. Arthur will go to Camp Lee Va, July 2nd Charles will take his Exam, July 17th but it will be 21 day until he get his call. he is having a hot time out at Neel making hay, we are having very hot weather now and very dry. Paul I am so glad you are enjoying your work over there lets keep on hoping and praying it will soon be over with, so you can get back on these roads. for I am thinking they are in need of some work, although we can't drive the car for pleasure, so that will save the road. Pop get gas for the Ford to go to his work. Bill is working rite around the WAA's now. he said I must not worry about him, for he did't think much of the V-MAIL. Love Mother Cates

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No.   
 (CENSOR'S STAMP)   
 Sgt. Paul D. Cates-35211573   
 Mrs. R. F. Cates (Sender's name)   
 Hdqrs. Comm. Zone 1   
 Romney (Sender's address)   
 Office of the Engineer, USA   
 W. Va.   
 Post Master, San Francisco, Calif.   
 July 2, 1943 (Date)

Dear Paul, So glad to get your letter, keep them coming. If you was back in U.S.A you would wish it was a little cooler, we have had very hot weather for about two wk. but the last two day we have had a cool spell. after a little rain that we need very bad. Well I have loved another boy to make sure Arthur go in a day go to camp Lee first and then on to Ashville Tenn, he think when Charles go in it look like I will haft to get another flag that will hold five stars, just as soon as we can get some picture finish was taken when Mildred and Gama was home I will send you some, well Mom & Pop are all alone again Charles is out at Neel now Hannah M. is working at the hotel, but home at nite. I is very lonesome for me, but I have lots of work to do, if I keep well. coming season are on now can't see today. Hope your cold is gone by now. Take it easy so long. Love Mother Cates

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No.   
 (CENSOR'S STAMP)   
 Sgt. Paul D. Cates-35211573   
 Mrs. R. F. Cates (Sender's name)   
 Hdqrs. Comm. Zone 1   
 Romney (Sender's address)   
 Office of the Engineer, USA   
 W. Va.   
 Post Master, San Francisco Calif.   
 July 9, 1943 (Date)

Dear Paul, Just rec'd your letter you wrote June 20 it has been raining the last few day and did we appreciate it the garden had got so dry, we have a fine garden. got my first tomatoes the July 4th we have got ever thing out of it to eat but corn and only just us two to enjoy it. I wish you could be here to enjoy it to. Got a card from Arthur this wk, he is still at Camp Lee enjoying their good eats and getting plenty of sleep for me not to rite for he would be leaving soon. Bob is doing fine coming home some Sat. nite if he can get a bonus to Wash, he said he had rite you about a mo ago. so look out you will get it some day. M. O got a pr of wings this wk from him, and a box of wachies from Bill this morn, made from cactus they look like dirt. I am glad you go to church. I go every sun and think of you. boys. And pray that you all will come home soon. Charles is very anxious to go to the Army too. he is getting so fat and big. he is afraid he won't get to wear some of Arthur's good looking dress. he left so be carefull please. Love Mother Cates

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 65798   
 (CENSOR'S STAMP)   
 Sgt. Paul D. Cates-35211573   
 Mrs. R. F. Cates (Sender's name)   
 Hdqrs. Comm. Zone 1   
 Romney (Sender's address)   
 Office of the Engineer, USA   
 W. Va.   
 Post Master, San Francisco, Calif.   
 16 July 1943 (Date)

Dear Paul, Glad you are O.K. and can comb your hair. I will give you something to do. Arthur is in Ashville N.C. went to work 12th July work under a man he work with at Landley fields. I am sending you some picture just as soon as I get them back from the printer. Mildred and family will be down the last wk. in this mo. happy vacation time. Mother Cates won't be lonely than. Charles go for his exam, 21th but they will all get to come back for 21 day. Neil hate to see Charles leave him for help is so scarce and so much to do. Charles is so fat and get along fine out there Gama will miss him so much we are having lots of rain rite now. Every thing look so green. I hear from Bob and Bill every wk I hope you have heard from them, Paul. Keeping those letter coming regular for I look for them and think you will rite next wk. Love Mother Cates

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not collectible.

No. 46667C

Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211033  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
USA-505-A. P.O. 301 San Francisco Calif

Mrs. P. Z. Oates  
Romney  
Box 254 W Va  
July 24, 1943

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul. Rec'd your letter yesterday that you wrote July 5 - so glad to get it. I do hope you had a fine time at the ball game. Charles taken his exam. he is OK. but he didn't pass. on account of his eyes. they sayed it would be about six mo. before they would call him again he was a little disappointed. but didn't say much about it. will go back a help Neil another wk. and will go to work at the Kelly at Omb. that is if he can get in they were \$25. top went. - I didn't pass. and only 24 that had pass high school exam, or graduated. Paul was talking to Mrs William about - Maining he is out in the Pacific somewhere. they think some where near you. and to look out for it - the name U.S.A.L.S.T. - 445. it is a small one Mrs Taylor is very well. but it has been so hot and dry. Arthur says he is going to write you this wk he is so glad he is back to work again I am looking for Bob. home, on his furlough. Creature G. has been down to see him and call me and told me all about - I told me some one to bad. with your Take it easy mother

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 101

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not collectible.

No.

Sgt. Paul Oates 35211033  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
USA-505-A. P.O. 301 San Francisco Calif

R. Mantgomery  
Romney  
Box 57  
W. Va

July 27, 1943

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul.  
How my cousin by name. he had been he o. n. Charles didn't pass for the Army. they said on the account of his eyes. but J. Cornwall passed and I can't understand why Charles didn't. He is sort of broken up about it. gamma & Neil had a time at school Sunday. It was real good. Sunday we had a hard thunder storm. Kelly was struck but not much damage. as one was killed. Daddy had an attack of Sunday in his back. He is getting along alright now. Gene Carter, Kenny Martin, Jim Smart all go to the Navy. They are to leave tomorrow night. Day Hagman, John B. Smith, & Randy Evers didn't pass. Schmidt & Powell are back in the Army. He one went into the Air Corp and only a few in the Marine. Now when would he say one left here in the old town of Romney. It will be mighty lonesome for awhile but I guess we will survive. Well I guess it has to close for now. See you again soon  
Always - Cas  
Alanna.

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not collectible.

No. 900580

Sgt. Paul Oates 35211033  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
USA-505-A. P.O. 301 San Francisco Calif

Mrs. M. A. Taylor  
Romney, W. Va.  
Box 282  
August 1st 1943

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Paul, dear  
By this time you are used to V-mail and I am used to writing it to Mamma - which in your part of the world. I know that your folks write you "early and often" also but home paper gives you work news. I don't know that there is anything I can add, but just to tell you how much and often I think of you in your far-away-gone - your Mother has promised to write and ask "especially" what you would wish us to send you in the home package - I want to join her in sending whatever you can use and what is permitted. You needn't be too modest in replying - for we will do our better best to give you at least a tiny thrill of the love, hopes and heart throbs that we put in the Santa package - Love which remain in our hearts as fresh as when you daily climbed "the hill-top" home of your devoted friend - Old, old Mrs. Taylor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 101

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not collectible.

No. 993755

Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211033  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
USA-505-A. P.O. 301 San Francisco Calif

Mrs. P. Z. Oates  
Romney  
Box 254  
W. Va  
Aug. 3, 1943

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul. Tomorrow I didn't get to write you but well, this is a very time for me. I'm in still at the hotel, and I have all the coming to do my self. So glad to get your letter yesterday and to hear you was made S/Dgt. congratulations my boy. I am so proud of you so good luck to you. I am so glad you hear from "Bob" don't be surprize for your little sis has sent you a air mail letter. Maybe you will get this one before you will reach her. I can't get her to take time of to write to you boys. but when she does it is a news paper. she is very proud of her watch she got Charles is still out at Neil. hardly know what to do. he is very much disappointed that he didn't pass. it will be left to the good weather he will go to school this winter maybe go to the Kelly in Armita to work. I keep those letters coming. I am so glad to hear from you with love from  
Paul's Mom

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 199347

S/Sgt. Paul Oates 35211553  
Engr. Corps, Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
U.S.A.S.O.C. - A.P.O. 501  
76 Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

Ada B. Oates  
(Sender's name)  
509 Thompson St.  
(Sender's address)  
Charlotte, W. Va.  
August 4, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul. Greetings from the tropics. Oh, it's still best Virginia, but the weather is so hot and sticky, it isn't diff.icult to imagine that one is really lost in the humid atmosphere of a vessel in which all the characters go to get by means of the weather. Imagine you sitting by a river, but fish? On speculation on your promotion; it's wonderful to hear you're doing better and better; and you very proud of you, I am really. That eighth month is so hot, too, and no doubt the extra pass isn't to be sniffed at! Two years in the Army! It's only sometimes that it seems like it, you're by day, P.M. Suppose it was all the time. There's been the lucky number for some persons - the first one you get that you consider it lucky. Things just happen to you then! You've not heard from that flying brother of yours since he left the boat. It rather hurts me that he won't write - and miss me too! If things would ever return to peace and quiet for me, I might write to Aunt Hannah for Bob's address, but you've been going thru a worry some time the past couple of months. The man who succeeded Mr. Nathan let me go at the middle of June; then I decided to decline the position offered me in another department of the Commission; I took a job downtown and I don't like it; and the other had a strenuous operation performed a couple of weeks ago. All of these things have left my nerve strong tight. Finally matters, of course, compared with the more serious things going on in the world; but our own little world have narrow horizons! You delight to learn you're still in the trail. Do you still think that occasional jump? And have you received any letters from me recently? Thanks so much for the V-mail letter. Write soon. Charis yourself!  
Ada

V-MAIL

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 253695

To S/Sgt. Paul Oates 35211553  
Office of the Engineer  
Engr. Corps, Zone 1  
U.S.A.S.O.C. - A.P.O. 501  
76 Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

From  
Lt. Robert F. Cole  
Engr. Corps, Zone 1  
Kissimmee Air Base  
(Sender's address)  
Kissimmee Fla  
Aug 6 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Hi little Brother:  
Nice going kid, on making Sgt. looks like all five of the dates began being O.K. in this main army since glad you like it there. Give me a few more months and I might be over there with you.  
I have about two months to go now before we'll be ready to leave. It is sure nice to fly this & see they are a small airplane. I think I am getting a chance to go home on I hope. So far I have just a bit over 300 hrs of flying and I will have about 500 before I see any action. You have heard of this rubber equip. Well, it is ready at. The fops won't have a chance once they are in range. This is just Dead Ducks.  
Kissimmee is just a mud-hole in the pine trees of Fla. We are the only fops here. We have a nice mess hall and officers club. We had to train any time we are not flying. Of course we are flying a little each day and about all night.  
Well, I have to leave now. Be good. Say, Bill is still working on line in Denning, N. Mex. Arthur is being moved around somewhere and he is a Pvt. After being a T/pt. and now going back in as a Pvt. in not so hot for him.  
Your Brother  
Bob

V-MAIL

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 409421

S/Sgt. Paul Oates 35211553  
Engr. Corps, Zone 1  
A.P.O. 501 Office of the Engineer  
76 Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Nancy Housenshaw  
(Sender's name)  
Box 87 - Franklin N.Y.  
(Sender's address)  
Aug. 6, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul:-  
Congrats on that Staff Sgt. business. I don't know just what it means to you but to me it means you're going higher & higher. I'm sorry to admit I'm so dumb but I thought it was never winter in Australia. Thanks for the educational point.  
We had a birthday party for Bobby last Tuesday. Four other kids were here & we had a cake and one candle, ice cream cones & cookies. We got some kids & a sun suit. Also a cup. I took some pictures. Another party is scheduled for next Friday.  
Bill's third - a few more kids & a few more candles. Planning a trip down home about the 25th. Mary & I hope Mom & Dad can stand the long vacation until we get our visit out. I'm anxious to see Gene. He probably walks now. Bobby can't yet, but crawls everywhere. Dugg, O., the dog down at Fraser's (Curtis's wife) had her first litter of pups. All five have been christened. Some loud! They are so cute. We have had a good garden so far this year & are expecting a good crop of potatoes. I hope they will be no. 1. That will be better than what I've been buying. I hope you're getting more than one cup of coffee a day now, because we are no longer available. I quit. I never drink a cup without thinking of you.  
Love - Thirled

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 568144

S/Sgt. Paul Oates 35211553  
Office of the Engineer  
Engr. Corps, Zone 1  
U.S.A.S.O.C. - A.P.O. 501  
76 Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Ramsey Cole  
(Sender's name)  
Ramsey  
(Sender's address)  
W. Va.  
Aug. 12, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul,  
How glad we were to get your letter so you are Jack of all trades, where you get back you and your Pop can go in business for your self. he has his swivel chair for Gunnar and he is making Caberette over and around my sister Mildred didn't get to come down where they had their vacations. She got sick on on them in Elkins and they went back on on them. She was able to call me in there. Elts she is O.K. now will come down. The last with in this mo, got a letter from "Bob" to-day says if his furlough go through he will be home 17th for ten days. See is in Kissimmee Fla for a mo, or so, if Mrs. Gunnar get her pictures back from printing I will send you some pictures of Bob. Christian was taken in Orlando. He live in hope picture will reach you some time. Paul I hope you are having a good time. Don't work too hard. Shopping you will get some sometime in the near future. Charles is still out at rail. very  
disappointed not going to the Army soon

POST OFFICE REGULATORY PERMIT NO. 14

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 35764

M/Sgt. Paul D. Oates, 3521155  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1, Office of Engineer  
U.S.A. - 505 - A.P.O. 501  
Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Pvt. Arthur M. Oates  
No. 4 Hq. Sq. Weather Wing  
City Hdg. Asheville, N.C.  
18 August 1943

Hello!

Is that "Sgt." correct? Boy, you are doing all right. Congrats on' all that sort of stuff. Mom sent me your address, so if it is wrong, blame her. That, by the way, is how I caught the additional "S" in your rank. I left home provided with all your addresses on the bottom of a carton of cigs, but I reckon I threw the carton away before I took time out to write. Anyhow, after I had purchased the paper and had decided to drop me little brudder a line before he dismissed me, I could not find your address. That involved several weeks, or seemed to, before getting it from home. By this time, I reckon I have that well known road paved pretty well with the instantans I have had to write you during the past several months. By the way, remember I wrote you a letter from South America? I don't remember ever getting an answer to it. See that you do better this time before I decide to come over after you. According to the letters from you that I read at home you kinda like that country.

What have you been doing since I last saw you in January? To post you up to date with my goings on since then I reckon I had better start with last January. Sure, I know that you know I returned from S.A. and all that.

Do you remember Andy? He was the nice looking fellow that worked for me at Bolling and you met him one time there. He might have been working in Operations at that time. Remember the Glenn's? They are here at Asheville with me. Major Glenn, I'll have you know. After I left you at Cumberland on my return trip, via Baltimore, Washington, and Miami. I heard about the way you delivered my going away presents. Also, the way you enjoyed them. See, (Stop your droolin') After spending a few days with the Harbor in Baltimore, I went to Washington. In Washington, I received some very bad news - Andy was killed in an airplane accident while in pilot training. He was buried in Washington and I was there with his wife (of 4 months) and family to help with what I could. It sure was funny, he was at Fort Harber on Dec. 7/41 and went thru all that stuff only to return here for his pilot training and be killed. It sure was a tough break for him, his family, and everyone else concerned. I didn't tell Mom while Bob was in training, but I did tell them later. Dad and Bob remember Andy.

On my trip to Miami from Washington, I sure learned a point about war time travelling. Carry your bags with you. Did you know I used your bag on my return trip to S.A.? Sure, I brought it back. But there I was in Miami with my plane leaving in two days and no bags. I had made the mistake of checking them on the train south. Darn it! They didn't arrive until about two hours before I had to have them checked into customs, which was at ten the night before leaving. I had to repack them, get out some clean clothes, etc. in two hours. I made, kid. By the skin of me teeth and no more. Then they told me since I worked for Pan American, it would have been all right to have brought them in later. Oh!!! I sure did sweat those bags out there in Miami. Which, by the way, is a very nice place to stay and sweat things out in January.

Here I am at the end of this sheet. So I'll continue it later. Take it easy.

Your big brother,  
Paul

V-MAIL

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 167827

S/Sgt. Paul Oates 3521155  
Major Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of The Engineer  
U.S.A. 505 - A.P.O. 501  
San Francisco, Calif.

A. Montgomery  
Box 57  
Romney, W. Va.  
August 23, 1943

Dear Paul

Here's a little note to a favorite cousin. Mind? Mother & Aunt Hanna are together today at the Convention in Augusta and Aunt Hanna is much better than she was. I know she has to much work, but she will be o.k. Will you get the letter concerning Annie? Bill sent me a beautiful picture of the scene in New Mexico. I had tented it and it is grand. He also sent Aunt Hanna some too. It had to have for a few days & then he died. I hope I can see him before he goes back.

Paul has you received all my letters you sent me by the number under the date. I'm rather anxious to know since you have been increasing this in the 19th letter from me.

Romney don't seem like it use to. It is as dull and lonesome. I'm still staying in my shift although I can hang back. I'm not because I can't think of lonely nights, they are to slow. Must close  
Always  
Alvina.

V-MAIL

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 556321

Sgt. PAUL D. OATES - 3521155  
ENGR. COMM. ZONE 1,  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
U.S.A. 505 - A.P.O. 501  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Charles Oates  
ROMNEY,  
WEST VIRGINIA, USA  
Aug 27, 1943

Hi Paul,

I know you won't expect a letter from me but I haven't anything else to do. Well, not until September sometime.

Maybe you haven't hear but this town of Romney is more dead than a graveyard at midnight. Every thing closes at nine o'clock, except Saturday night.

On Saturday night the town is packed with country people. Talking about country people you should see the country girls that walk the streets. Well all the boys that left in Romney are spending their time in the country. These town girls are getting more stuck up every day. That all for now, no more room.  
Your brother,  
Charlie

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 556322

Sgt. Paul D. Oates 3521155  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1,  
Office of The Engineer  
U.S.A. 505 - A.P.O. 501  
San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. P. F. Oates  
Romney  
USA W. Va.  
Aug 27, 1943

Dear Paul - we are having very warm weather now and very dry. I rec'd a letter from Bill today. It has been rain so much there, he got another furlough 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct. Bob was home for a wk. just went back this time, he look so large, he certainly did have some appetite. He think he will be sent back to Calif. to finish up his training. Arthur is still in N.C. See call me from Nashville Tenn. he was there on a visit, he wants some papers from his junk box but we fail to find them, Mildred Darry and the boys are here now. He is on his vacation. The boys are getting so big Bob is trying to walk I will send you some picture in your box. I don't know whether you will get it for your birth day or not. We are hoping. I hope you received the book of January. To day I will write her soon and thank her for it. So glad to get it. Charles think he will go to the Army in Sep. Some time he is coming home. I don't know when school start Sep 7.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 904586

1 Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211553  
Eng. Comm. Zone 1 USA 309  
Office of The Engineer  
P. O. Master, San Francisco  
California

Mrs. P. F. Oates  
(Sender's name)  
Roumney  
(Sender's address)  
U.S.A. W Va.  
Sept. 3 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul, - Just a little late in the wk getting down to writing to you, that better than the brother does I keep reminded these to write you for you like to hear from them. Got a letter from Bill last evening he is still hanging out parts for air plants, got a furtough, 1<sup>st</sup> class. Got one letter from Bob since he went back he stop and saw Christine he says ever thing is settle between them him her. he wasn't like it for she was telling that he was trying to come and visit him, she was getting to see him, he don't seem to hear nothing on his mind but flying. Janice and I are fixing a box to send you I hope you will get it on your birthday, but you may not so keep on looking and hoping. The picture will be in the box, put up two or peches this wk. They are only 4.50. This fr. but very nice. Mildred & family were down for a wk. HM went back with her for 3 days. School start Sept. 7. Paul don't neglect to write please, glad you are getting good. Charles is still   
Mildred Oates

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

538126

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

1 Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211553  
Eng. Comm. Zone 1 USA 309  
Office of The Engineer  
P. O. Master, APO 500  
San Francisco Calif.

Mrs. P. F. Oates  
(Sender's name)  
Roumney  
(Sender's address)  
U.S.A. W Va.  
September, 10 1943  
(Date)

Dear Paul, so glad to get your picture and your long letter. Pop. says you had better wash your upper lip, we all had a big laugh when we look at it. Aunt Dale and we were here to day. You look so good and tell you hello! James & Gene is here just for two days. Marion Montgomery-Thompson and little boy, is home so they about to the show they look like two kids. Tom started to school this Tues. Charles is picking apples, until he get his call for the Army he pop it - will be lost of this mo. Bob is back to his flying. Having lots of fun. Bob so big 203 lb, can you beat it. you look it. Bill will get his furtough the first of the mo. I wish you would pop in too. Every body is just the same around here. They are a few getting married and lots of babies do you get the review now? The new are just a little old but they are from home. So long a little old but they are from home. So long & careful until next wk.   
Love Mother Oates

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 453781

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

1 Sgt. Paul D. Oates - 35211553  
Eng. Comm. Zone 1 USA 309  
Office of The Engineer  
San Francisco, California

Mrs. Nell T. Engel  
(Sender's name)  
Hanging Rock  
(Sender's address)  
West Virginia  
September 11, 1943  
(Date)

Dear Brother Paul,  
Can you imagine this? Me, writing to you of an all this time! Please forgive cause I've been sorta worrying for your picture. Mom and I just a lot and I'm sending it to you the same time as I send this - so look for it. The pipe and tobacco are from the family here, and the Cansels are from Neil, Gus, and I. They're for your birthday - and may be Christmas too. If we don't get to send anything else.  
There is a big boy now and his strictly "Daddy Boy" - and his his daddy's pride and joy! He certainly love alot of you with him around. I've been up here at home for two days & he had quite a bit of attention - and how he loves it!  
Thanks Mary said to please answer her letter. Neil says hello, and be good.  
Hope you can read this and will answer soon. So long - from  
Your sister,  
Janice

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 683969

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To 1 Sgt. Paul Oates - 35211553  
Eng. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of The Engineer  
U.S.A. 3.0.5 - APO 501  
7/2 PM. - San Francisco, Calif.

From  
Lt. Robert F. Oates  
(Sender's name)  
A.S.N. O-786159  
419 2<sup>nd</sup> A.F.S.  
(Sender's address)  
Kasimance, Ark. Base  
Kinajmmpc, Fk  
(Date)

Dear Paul:  
I thanks for your picture. I sent it on to Bill. Looks like the army is doing you good. It is so.  
I am now in a combat squad, we will be going soon, I hope. So far I have been doing O.K. Have about 350 lbs to my credit. My Radio Observer is from Richmond, Va and goes by the name of "Pit" Falgout. He is about the same size as me. Boy, what a team we make. He sure knows his business.  
I had a small time when I was home last month. The place is sure dead but it sure looked O.K. to me since it will likely to be the last time for some time to come. Saw all the Michaels and Tom. He is really worried over Bob who is in Alaska. Bill Frank Parnell is in Alaska and is standing for an R.O.  
I have to say so long. Keep things going and I might get over to see you  
Your Big Brother  
Bob

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 808202  
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/Sgt. Paul D. Oates - 35211553  
Hq. Co. 7th Engr. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
USAGOS, A.F.O. 501  
c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

Pfc. William R. Oates  
(Sender's name)  
977th B. T. Sqdn.  
D. A. S. O. 501  
Deming, New Mexico  
Sept. 17, 1943  
(Date)

LITTLE S/Sgt. Oates---  
FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD, YOUR NOSE IS GROWING SHORTER. IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN WHAT I HAVE HEARD? NO!!! DOESN'T THAT FIRST "S" MEAN S--T? MAYBE YOU ARE WORKING AND DESERVE THAT RATING, WHO KNOWS? I GOT A LETTER FROM THE LIEUTENANT THE OTHER DAY, AND HE SAID THAT HE HAD HAD A LETTER FROM YOU AND YOU HAD SENT HIM A PICTURE WHICH HE SENT TO ME TO SEE. IT LOOKS AS IF YOU ARE GETTING FAT. SINCE LETTER WRITING ISN'T ONE OF MY GOOD HABITS, YOU DON'T GET MANY LETTERS FROM ME. THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW THAT I WRITE, SINCE EVERYBODY SAYS THAT THEY WRITE TO YOU, I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS ABOUT TIME THAT I DID THE SAME.  
IN CASE YOU WRITE TO ME TELL ME IF YOU CAN READ THIS LETTER ALRIGHT. SURELY HAS ABOUT STARTED TO LEAVE HERE, THE NIGHTS HAVE BEGUN TO GET COOL. WINTER HERE IS JUST A FEW GOLD NIGHTS, LAST WINTER THEY HAD A FEW SNOW FLURRIES WHICH WE WOULDN'T NOTICE BACK HOME.  
BILL ROSEY, WHO I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU ABOUT WHEN I WAS IN CHICAGO, AND I AM GOING HOME ON FURLOUGH IN NOVEMBER. WHEN I GET BACK I WILL WRITE YOU ALL OF THE NEWS AND SCANDALS THAT HAVE ARISEN.  
IN CASE YOU DON'T GET THE REVIEW, HERE IS SOME NEWS.  
OLETA DOMAN IS A "GRAND MOTHER"---MR. & MRS. BOB JOHNSON HAVE A DAUGHTER. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT? LITTLE BROTHER ARTHUR IS NOW A PFC, SO AM I AND WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOR THE DURATION THE WAY THINGS LOOK IF I DON'T GET BUSTED.  
THE LAST TIME THAT I WROTE YOU I WAS WORKING NIGHTS. WELL, THEN IT WAS ONLY EVERY OTHER WEEK, NOW, IT IS ALL THE TIME. WHEN I LEFT THE DELAWARE I THOUGHT THAT I WAS THROUGH WITH NIGHT WORK, BUT I GOT FOOLED AND SINCE I HAD WORKED NIGHTS BEFORE THE BOSS THOUGHT THAT I WOULDN'T MIND WORKING THEM AGAIN. THEREFORE I HAVE BEEN WORKING STEADY NIGHTS FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS. IT IS LIKE OLD TIMES, I DON'T MIND IT A BIT ANY MORE. THE ONLY THING THAT I DO MISS IS GOING TO TOWN AT NIGHT AND GETTING HALF DRUNK, BUT THAT IS A LOT BETTER FOR ME, SO I DON'T REALLY MIND AT ALL. IN THE AFTERNOON I GO TO THE MATINEE SHOW, I STILL SEE ALL THAT I CAN. THIS AFTERNOON I SAW "THIS IS THE ARMY". I HOPE YOU GET A CHANCE TO SEE IT. IN CASE YOU CAN SEE IT YOU GOT SOMETHING COMING. I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SEE THE STAGE PLAY WHICH THE PICTURE IS BASED ON IN CHICAGO LAST WINTER. OF COURSE THERE WAS MORE TO THE PICTURE THAN TO THE PLAY, BUT THERE WAS A LOT IN THE PLAY THAT WILL HAYS WOULDN'T LET THEM PUT ON THE SCREEN. IT IS THE BEST MUSICAL THAT I HAVE SEEN IN THE MOVIES SINCE I GOT INTO THE ARMY. I HAVE HEARD ABOUT SOME PICTURES BEING SENT OVER SEAS, DO YOU GO TO SEE ANY OF THEM? I HAVE READ THAT THEY ARE THE VERY LATEST ONE OUT ALONG WITH SOME OF THE OLDER ONES, ANYTHING TO IT?  
SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I WILL EVER GET AROUND, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO STAY HERE AND IT LOOKS LIKE I WILL BE ONE OF THE ONES THAT STAYS HERE TO HELP TRAIN THE ONES THAT DO GO OVER, EVEN IF IT IS INDIRECTLY.  
MY PAPER IS RUNNING OUT, SO UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, KEEP YOUR NOSE AND OTHER THINGS CLEAN.  
SO-LONG Bill

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 315682  
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211553  
Hq. Co. 7th Engr. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer, USA, 505  
c/o Postmaster, A.F.O. 501  
San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Ramsey F. Oates  
(Sender's name)  
Romney  
W. Va.  
Sept. 18, 1943  
(Date)

Dear Paul. - Just a little late when it comes to thinking of you all the time, but I have been so busy caring and Janina and Gene was up for two days. I made her three dresses and a skirt. It has begun to feel like fall we have had some frost - not to look anything yet. Charles is got his call for a moose Exam, 24th he hopes he will pass. They are but a very few boys left in Romney only Les Loy he is working at the Kelly and stays in Romney. Gene & I got together and got your boy sent. The next day Mrs Taylor came in for your Xmas boy and she knew us we sent money for your Xmas boy and she would be sending you one and to be sure to get it sent by Oct 15. She is very much worried over making & Charles, and she worries about other boys too. The other boys are all O.K. I don't hear from Arthur very often the last time I talked to him from Nashville Tenn, he was on a little trip down there. Oh your picture look good. Send me some more. I got her taken with her next to me. Love, Mother Oates

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 244666  
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt. Paul Oates - 35211553  
Hq. Co. 7th Engr. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
U.S.A. S.O.S. - A.F.O. 501  
c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

Robert Ramsey  
(Sender's name)  
Romney, W. Va.  
Sept. 20, 1943  
No. 11 (Date)

Dear Paul  
I know what your saying. In sleeping I know it but really I've been busy last Tuesday nite we at Pints got our releases & furlough. So I've got to get me another job. Myerson wants me to come to San Agustine so I think I'll give it a try.  
It's been a year since I've heard from you. Mother & Dad always ask if I've heard from you. So let us hear from you all.  
I'm sending you a birthday card today but in case you don't get it - I'll wish you happy birthday now, and many more.  
Aunt Hanna & all are well. I see them now & then. I got to see Bob once when he was home & really he is top along with you. The Army surely puts something on you boys that hard to get any place else. In a couple of weeks I'll probably be in Agustine & I'll send you my address. Meanwhile write me at Romney. See you later - Always Aluma

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. (CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/Sgt. Paul Oates - 35211553  
Hq. Co. 7th Engr. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
U.S.A. S.O.S. - A.F.O. 501  
c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

A. Ramsey  
(Sender's name)  
Box 52  
Romney, W. Va.  
Sept. 26, 1943  
No. 21 (Date)

Dear Paul,  
I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to get it. I really do not blame you for taking things easy. I'm doing the same thing on these little problems. I'll wait until later & then I'll look around. Things are dull around here, and nothing really happens so really there never is a lot to tell. Mother, Dad, Ramsey & Aunt Hanna all went out to Camp Walker this evening for a bond selling. I've heard & several people are to be there.  
So far I'm still home, but I do hope that I'll soon be leaving. I'm very anxious to be at work again, and as it is I've got to wait until the swelling goes out of my mouth. See I had it teeth out & a whole upper plate put in, so that's what's holding me back now. Maybe I'll tell you I can go soon. I sure hope so. Be careful Paul, and I'll try & write again soon. I'll family sends love along with mine.  
A. Ramsey

V-MAIL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1942

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the space below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

Sgt Paul D. Oates - 35211300  
Eagan Comm Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
USA - 305 - APO 301  
Post Master San Francisco  
Calif.

Mrs R F Oates  
Rosenney  
USA W Va  
Sept 28 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul, I was so glad to get your letter, it seems now I am glad to you got a few letters from some one else beside me, every body is all O.K. Charles pass his exams, he come home Sat nite all smiles. he said he was a put in the Army. will be leaving Oct. 10. I am very proud of those five stars that will go up in the window, but very lonesome with out you all, but live hope and pray that it will be all over some day and you all can come back home again when you want to. Steve Sharp was home he think he is leaving the states his mother is living here now Earl lives with his mother and she lives in a couple of room across the st. they have some time. Jerry has been home for a couple of days. Elene is home with her 5 wk old baby girl what a time Grandma (Alita is having. Pop is ready to go this Sat. hunting. if he can get any thing to shoot with that is true. Greatest problem. wish you were here to go along. Hope you get your card for your Birthday. Do I wish you many happy returns hope you can be home for the next one.  
Love  
Mother Oates

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the space below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

S/SGT. PAUL D. OATES - 35211300  
EAGAN COMM. ZONE 1  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
USA 305 - APO 301  
c/o POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

MR. WILLIAM R. OATES  
STAN. P. FARM - D.A.A.F.  
DUBLING, NEW MEXICO  
OCTOBER 5, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SINCE I WAITED TOO LONG TO SEND A CARD TO YOU, MAYBE THIS WILL DO.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
S/Sgt.

From  
'Corporal'  
Oates

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 121

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the space below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

Sgt Paul D. Oates - 35211300  
Eagan Comm Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
USA - 305 - APO 301  
Post Master San Francisco  
Calif.

Mrs R F Oates  
Rosenney  
USA W Va  
Oct 8, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul, I hope things are still normal around where you are at. we are all O.K. Pop & Charles will go hunting Sat. out to neck wish you could be here to go with them. Sgt Arthur sent me a pin with five stars and a best ticket point. Arthur made a jump to 2/sgt. also Bill to Cpl. Jill will get his furlough now any time. they are but a few boys left in Romney. Did you about the only one that is working at the Kelly in Omaha. Do you are going to the Bill for your girl friend when you get back. Pop is leaving the now any time where or when he does not know. Christine was down a real he again. Bob told me he was through with her but she still will hang around, what a woman. I was sure glad to get your letter, I will try and get her to write again. I her last night in school. she is in ever thing, very busy. We from Sunday is your birthday or night about the time you will get that. Do happy Birthday hope you have many many. hope you can get your job. It won't be much but from home. hope you is getting ready. Well, I will be home. Love  
Mother Oates

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 121

cc. 26/10/43

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the space below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

Sgt Paul D. Oates - 35211300  
Eagan Comm Zone 1  
Office Eng, 96 Post Master  
USA 305 - APO 301  
San Francisco Calif

Mrs R F Oates  
Rosenney  
USA W Va  
Oct 13, 1943  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Hi! Dad;  
Just got best from Moorfield and from seeing Romney take Moorfield over and a 25-0 victory. We beat Turkey Springs 12-0, lost to Charles Town 16, and beat Franklin 36-0. We have a great team.  
Mom, started this but I'm going to try to finish it. You asked for some information as here it is: Dad's birthday is April 13 - age 59; Mother's Nov. 2 - age 53; Arthur's - June 23 - 31; Bill's - Aug. 5 - 30; Mildred's - March 24 - 32; Bob - Nov. 21 - 25; James - March 4 - 22; Charles - Aug. 5 - 19; and me - Nov. 15 - 16. Is that O.K.? If you can't read it, I'll write you again.  
I was up to see Mildred and Harry last weekend. More fun! I'll tell you about it some day.  
Do you have any 18-year old friends over there (hays I mean)? If they can come over to write to them, there will always be one. Well, be good.  
Your father  
Paul D. Oates

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 121

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 11/11/43

To **Sgt Paul Oates**  
 Engr. Comm Zone 1  
 Office of the Engr.  
 U.S.A.S.Os - APO 501  
 % Postmaster  
 San Francisco, Calif.

From **R. Robert F. Oates**  
 (Sender's name) 746154  
 419 N.E.S. K.A.B.  
 (Sender's address)  
 Kissimmee, Fla.  
 Oct 12 1943  
 (Date)

Dear "Little Brother"

I thank a lot for the letter. Sorry I haven't taken time to answer it before. Been busy choosing some parties before we pull out for parts unknown. Hope it is over where you are at.

Everything with me is O.K. except for woman trouble. Christine was down to see me again but it didn't do her a damn bit of good. I get regular letters from Carolyn, Renee May and a girl in Wash. D.C. Why should I get married. Nilla is back home now. She was manager for the Alpine gang but gave it up. She is really a swell person.

I guess you know about three being 5 of the Oates' boys in the Army now. So long now. Hope to be over there with you.

Your Big Brother  
Bob.

V-MAIL

No. 11/11/43

Sgt. Paul Oates - #5211553  
 Engr. Comm Zone 1  
 Office of the Engineer  
 U.S.A.S.Os - APO 501  
 % Postmaster  
 San Francisco, California

Robert F. Oates  
 (Sender's name)  
 546 Chestnut St.  
 (Sender's address)  
 Hagerstown, Md.  
 Oct 14 1943  
 (Date)

Dear Paul.

I guess you can readily see that my address has changed a bit. Well I'm in Hagerstown and I am going to try & get word maybe I'll succeed and maybe I won't who knows.

Anything is a quite bit. Marion & I are at the show & in Hagerstown now & when he cries out.

Nothing exciting has happened here in Hagerstown yet. But I sure hope it does, because it is sorta dull down here. But man as had so Romney.

The other nice Nilla Carter Ray (red head) and I went out for dinner & a show. So that was some place to go.

I don't know much of anything from Romney. as it is not me which there had been. Bill wrote me that he was to get home soon, but he didn't know how soon. I'd like to see Bill but I guess that will be impossible.

Write me soon and tell me how you are because I'm anxious to know what my "big brother" is doing.

"Case"  
Alaine

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 11/11/43

To **Sgt Paul Oates - #5211553**  
 Engr. Comm Zone 1  
 Office of the Engineer  
 U.S.A.S.Os - APO 501  
 % Postmaster  
 San Francisco Calif.

From **Mrs R. F. Oates**  
 (Sender's name)  
 Romney  
 (Sender's address)  
 U.S.A. W.O.  
 Oct 26 1943  
 (Date)

Dear Paul, I am so glad your letters come regular. I have got out every Sunday for about two weeks, glad there is getting a little warmer over there. It has been raining for two days and getting cold. We haven't had much freezing weather yet.

Bob is some where I haven't heard his address is change to P. Master San Francisco Calif. Charles is at Columbus Ohio. will be there some time he made 121 on a test he had a good chance of getting into the Army especially training program. he hope to go to engineering school. he said his unit was 10% in his dress uniform got his picture. he certainly looks like Dick. It has been very lousome around here since he left. About a letter from Dick on Sat. he did say a word about his furlough. he will be here next week. I hope Paul I am afraid I am going to get out of practice in my cooking if some of your boys don't come home soon.

Bob I guess it will all come back to me. when I have to do it again. Paul I hope you get to go swimming soon. It seems so funny to talk about it when it is so cold here. Have a good time and hope you will be

Love, mother

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. 11/11/43

S/SGT. PAUL D. GATES # 5211553  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
 Office of the Engineer  
 USASOS - APO 501  
 c/o Postmaster  
 San Francisco, California

CPL. WILLIAM B. GATES  
 (Sender's name)  
 977th. B. T. Sqdn., D.A.A.F.  
 (Sender's address)  
 Durang, New Mexico  
 October 28, 1943  
 (Date)

LITTLE STAFF SARGENT .....

I GOT YOUR LETTER TODAY, AND THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT AS WELL ANSWER IT SINCE I HAVE NOTHING TO DO RIGHT AT THE PRESENT TIME. I WON'T BE AROUND HERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS, I AM GOING TO ENJOY THE PRIVILEGE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HAD FOR A LONG TIME - I AM GOING ON FURLOUGH. I HOPE THAT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU CAN DO THE SAME THING THAT I AM GOING TO DO AND WON'T HAVE TO GO BACK. WHEN I GET BACK, I WILL WRITE TO YOU AND TELL YOU ALL THE DIRT THAT I FIND OUT. DO YOU GET THE MORNING NEWSPAPER?

ARTHUR MADE STAFF THE FIRST OF THE MONTH, SO IF YOU ARE GOING TO KEEP AHEAD OF HIM YOU HAD BETTER STEP ON IT. I THOUGHT THAT I WAS AHEAD OF HIM UNTIL I SAW IN THE REVIEW THAT HE MADE AN ADVANCEMENT FROM PFC TO S/SGT. THE ONLY WAY THAT HE GOT IT WAS THAT HE WAS A BUCK SGT. IN THE SERVICE WHEN HE WAS DISCHARGED WITH AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE. SO DON'T FEEL TOO BAD ABOUT HIS CATCHING UP WITH YOU SO SOON.

CHARLES IS TRYING TO GET IN "ASTP", WHERE RICHARD PULKE IS. IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT "ASTP" IS, WELL, IT MEANS ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM. I ALMOST WENT BUT THE BOARD HERE DIDN'T PASS ME WHEN I WENT BEFORE THEM. MY C.O. SAID THAT THEY THOUGHT THAT I WAS TOO OLD AND HAD BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL TOO LONG TO GET BACK IN THE HABIT OF STUDYING THE COURSE THAT I WOULD HAVE TO TAKE. HE WAS ONE OF THE BOARD, SO HE OUGHT TO KNOW. IF CHARLES CAN GET IN IT, IT WILL BE A GREAT HELP TO HIM IF HE GOES ON TO SCHOOL AFTER THE WAR IS OVER, IT IS AN ENGINEERING COURSE ITSELF..... I HAVE BEEN OUT OF SPACE, SO UNTIL I GET BACK - SO LONG!

Bill



Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. *7/12/43*

**Sgt. PAUL D. OATES**  
36211553  
Engr. Comm Zone-1  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
U.S.A. 605 - A.P.O. 501  
% POST MASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

**Pvt. CHARLES D. OATES**  
ASN 3276122  
1571 S. V. MED. SEC.  
STATION HOSPITAL  
E. P. 6  
LACARNE, OHIO  
NOV. 24, 1943

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul,

I am in the army now, I think. I am in the medical corps. It is the softest outfit in the army. Anyway I have an easy job. The food is hospital regulations (not G.I.). I work at night and sleep in the day time.

I am located on the south coast of Lake Erie. I see the lake every day. The Erie Proving Grounds is next door. It is about 700 miles from Romney. There is a shortage of men here so furlongs are very hard to get. As yet I have not had any basic training.

Write soon, Bub. Same as ever,  
Charlie

Charlie

Post Office Department Permit No. 24

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. *8/12/43*

**S/PT PAUL D. OATES - ASN 3276122**  
ENGR. COMM. ZONE-1  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
DEARIS, A.P.O. 501  
c/o POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

**Cpl. WILLIAM R. OATES**  
(Leader's name)  
71st. Bomb. Tr. Sqdn.  
D. A. A. F.  
Deming, New Mexico

November 26, 1943  
(Date)

PAUL (OR SHOULD I SAY SERGEANT):

I SAID THAT I WOULD WRITE TO YOU WHEN I GOT BACK FROM MY FURLOUGH, WELL, HERE IT IS. I GOT BACK LAST TUESDAY A WEEK AGO, AND WAS I GLAD TO SEE THIS PLACE. IT IS BAD WHEN YOU HAVE TO TRAVEL, BUT I WOULD DO IT AGAIN TOMORROW IF THEY WOULD LET ME.

IF ARTHUR HADN'T COME HERE WHEN I WAS THERE, I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD HAVE STAYED AS LONG AS I DID. BOWEN IS DEAD, THAT IS HOW SO THAT IT WAS WHEN THIS HAPPENED. I SUPPOSE THAT YOU WROTE AND TOLD YOU THE PICTURES WAS IN THE SERVICE, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY WERE ON THE FRONT PAGE. THEY WERE ALL GOOD PICTURES EXCEPT THE ONE OF CHARLES. WHEN THEY GOT THAT ONE, I DON'T KNOW, IF IT HADN'T HAD HIS NAME UNDER THE PICTURE, I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WHO IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. THE PICTURE OF HIM AND DAD WAS A HALF-SHOT THAT WAS TAKEN BY THE OLD MAPLE IN THE YARD, AND OF COURSE DAD WASN'T LOOKING TOWARD THE CAMERA AS USUAL.

HANNAH MARY IS HAVING A BAD TIME OF IT, HER LATEST ONE TELLING HER IS A BROWN BOY FROM FRANKLIN WHO SHE MET WHEN SHE WAS STAYING WITH HILBERT LAST SUMMER. SHE SNIPPED ACROSS, AND THE WAY SHE ACTS YOU WOULD THINK THAT YOUR LITTLE SISTER WAS 12 RAD. HER OF COURSE TELLS HER THAT IT IS PURE LOVE, SHE HAS SAID THAT ABOUT FORTYSEVEN OF HILBERT'S AND ZAMMA'S BOY FRIENDS WHEN THEY STARTED TO GET FURLOUGH OR ONE NIGHT STAY.

CHARLES IS IN THE MEDICAL CORPS, AND AT THE PRESENT TIME IS HARD BOY. I AM GLAD THAT I DIDN'T GET INTO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN IN A HOSPITAL, YOU WILL KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO. HE CAN HAVE IT AND I WILL KEEP THE JOB THAT I HAVE NOW, ALL THAT HE WILL DO IS TO SCRUB, SCRUB, AND SCRUB SOME MORE, EMPTY BED PAN, BED PAN, AND WASH BED PANS, AT LEAST THAT WAS THE THING THAT THE WARD BOYS DID IN THE HOSPITAL THAT I WAS IN LAST WINTER.

ALTHEA IS NOW IN HAGERSTONE WORKING AS A TELEPHONE OPERATOR. SHE LIKES THE WORK, BUT AS SHE WRITES ME SHE GETS AWAY LONELY AT TIMES. JIM THOMPSON, SHE SAYS, WILL HAVE TO GO INTO THE ARMY FOR HIS LAST DEPARTMENT IS ABOUT UP. HE SAYS THAT HE WOULDN'T TAKE ANOTHER ONE IF THEY GAVE IT TO HIM.

VIC LOY IS IN BALTIMORE WORKING AT MARTIN'S. HE IS LIVING WITH JOHN HOUSER. READING MORNING, EARL LOY, CARL BARNICK, GEORGE JUNE, TOM AND DALE NAPLES WENT FOR THEIR EXAMINATION THE SIXTEENTH OF THIS MONTH, I NEVER HEARD IF THEY PASSED OR NOT. IEN'T THAT SOME DUMB TO SEND AT ONE TIME, THERE WERE OTHERS OF COURSE. THERE ARE A LOT MORE AROUND TOWN THAT ARE GETTING SCARED THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO GO. A.G. LOY SAYS THAT THE ARMY WOULD DO A LOT OF THEM SOME GOOD AND PROVE TO THEM THAT THEY ARN'T THE MEN THAT THEY THINK THEY ARE, AND THAT IS ONE THING THAT I WILL REMEMBER.

BOB JOHNSON WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY AND HE AND ELAINE AND THE BABY ARE AT OLKITA'S NOW. HE APPLIED FOR O.C.S. AND WHEN HE BOOK THE EXAMINATION THEY FOUND SOMETHING WRONG AND TURNED HIM LOOSE. HIS BROTHER JIM HAS BEEN AWOL FROM THE NAVY FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS, ONE OF WHICH HE WAS AT HOME SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN DISCHARGED AND THEN HE LEFT AND NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE IS NOW. HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT AND THEY THINK THAT HE HAS MADE AMERICA, I HOPE HE HAS FOR HIS BARK. THERE CAN CURE HIM OF THAT AND THE TREATMENT IS A LOT EASIER ON HIM THAN FOR REGISTRATION.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT S.M.C., WELL, REMEMBER AND I WERE OUT TWO NIGHTS WITH HER AND JOHN AND MR. REMONDS KIFF, AND REMONDS, AND HAD A SMALL TIME. SHE SEEMS TO BE VERY HAPPY. REMONDS OUT OF PAPER, SO UNTIL THE NEXT TIME.

SO LONG.

Bill.

V MAIL

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 24

No.

**Sgt. Paul D. Oates**  
ASN 3276122  
Engr. Comm Zone-1  
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER  
U.S.A. 605 - A.P.O. 501  
% POST MASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

**A. M. [Name]**  
(Leader's name)  
546 Chestnut St  
Hagerstown, Md  
Nov. 5, 1943

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Cousin,

How are you? O.K. I don't seem to be. There is another piece of news. My mine really who has been sent to Australia. Long miles from Romney. So now you are almost of you are there. So John and I are for a Commission. They gave him a heart exam. He found that he had a heart on his lung, so now he is at Fairchild here in Hagerstown. Alan Cashman was killed in action. Mr. Mother died. This Carder Roof (red head) is going to be a mother. I guess that is all of the news right now.

Mother & Jim want to come home last week but I had to stay here. I had to work. I also have to work Christmas too. 9-6. Just but I really & truly hate to do. My first Christmas away from home, damn it. Well maybe next year we will all be home. At least I don't hope so.

Don't mind to write you today. Mother & Jim want to the school I don't mind it because I don't know very many people. All I know are married. Write soon.  
Flayp  
Anna

Post Office Department Permit No. 24

Print the complete address in plain black letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. *7/12/43*

**Sgt. Paul D. Oates - ASN 3276122**  
Engr. Comm Zone-1  
Office of the Engineer  
U.S.A. 605 - A.P.O. 501  
San Francisco Calif

**Mrs. P. F. Oates**  
(Leader's name)  
Romney  
USA  
W. Va.  
Dec. 7, 1943

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul, so glad to get your letter. we are all O.K. we havint had so much cold weather yet. got a long letter from Bob today. he havint done much. flying yet. his address is Lt Robert Oates 0.740109-419th N.F.S. APO-709. % Post Master San Francisco Calif. It so nice to get lots of mail from the old USA. I know you appreciate every letter, just as soon as I hear from Bill and he send me your pipe he was to get. I will send you your things you want for. Have you heard from Charles yet. I think he rot to every one around here. he is getting along better now. he say he does most ever thing, serves the help three meals, or his wt. is 160 lb. now. he is getting the best of food to eat. I certainly have miss him. I am afraid James is going to be someone around here. M. says she with home yet. I know yet. she is very busy at school and work at Chest 0710 after school. Mildred will be down the web of James for a few days. Bob & Bill has got so big. I wish you a happy Christmas. lets hope you will be home for next Xmas. they are looking for Melvin.  
Love  
Mother Oates.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 24

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. **Paul D. Oates - 35211553**  
From **Wm Hannah Oates**  
(Sender's name)  
**Romney**  
(Sender's address)  
U.S.A. **W.D.**  
**Jan Francisco Calif**  
**Dec 16, 1943**  
(Date)

Dear "Paul", we all wish you a merry Christmas. It will seem like Easter to you. The weather is warm where you are at and here it is was 2. below 0. This morning. I don't get much done but put in cold to keep warm. I sure did get a surprise this wk when Charles came in just 3 days wout - get his 10 days furlough until march. He look fine in his uniform and very neat. His wt. is 102 lb. Arthur is smaller now his wt 100 when he was home. Arthur is in Mania Beach Fla. now at school for 5 or 6 mo, and back to Asheville. as a 2nd Lt. Charles sayd he wote to you and Bob but no ans, yet. he guess he would hapt to rite again to get a ans, he like his work better now. How'd you got the Review yet. with the picture in it it certainly was a big surprise to lots of the people that use to know us. we have got several letters of congratulation and don't you think that morn Oates irit proud. I am all smiles when every any one sayd something about you boy. just rec'd a card from Nell & reports she had rec'd your cashgram she was so glad to get it. I could rite & rite all day but will say so long. I am very busy w/ my work after school and will  
V-MAIL  
Love Mother Oates

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. **Paul D. Oates 35211553**  
From **Pub. Char. Oates**  
(Sender's name)  
**25761542, 157154**  
(Sender's address)  
**MED. SEC. STATION HOSP**  
(Sender's address)  
**EPG, LACARNE, OHIO**  
**DEC 17, 1943**  
(Date)

Dear Paul,  
This makes two letters that I have wrote you. I was home on a 3 day pass this week and I read a letter that you had sent Mon. You said you had rite got any letters from me. I hope this one gets there.  
While I was home I took the little white radio of Billie to Ray Rines to get it fixed. Ray is down in bed with T.B. One of his lungs has a big hole in it and it is spreading to the other one. He asked me if I would rite and tell you he would like to hear from you. He will have plenty of time to answer you. He will be laid up for about two years. Write soon.  
V-MAIL  
Charlie

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No. **Paul D. Oates - 35211553**  
From **Wm Hannah Oates**  
(Sender's name)  
**Romney**  
(Sender's address)  
U.S.A. **W.D.**  
**San Francisco, Calif**  
**Dec 28, 1943**  
(Date)

Dear Paul, Mother Oates is very busy but not to busy to take a few min. off and rite to you. It will seem very lonely around here about the time we set down at the dinner table on Xmas. day and not one of you boy here. I wud some thing can't be help. Let's hope you all can be back for next Xmas. It is 4. James Neil and Gene will be here for dinner. Paul Gene is getting so big and he is very cute he makes big fuss over his grandpa cats. and Pop like that. I must tell you about another wedding in town. Denny Boy Leving and Linda Math Virginia Pansel and a boy from Charlton. They were married in Church here. Denny boy in Cumbs. But. It seems impossible to get you a Kaywoody pipe. Bill has tryed in Cumbs and in New Mexico. Charles tryed in Ohio do next wk I will send you your Xmas box I hope by now you save your Xmas box and you can get back and smoke some more; so long  
V-MAIL  
Love Mother Oates

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. **Paul D. Oates 35211553**  
From **Hannah May Oates**  
(Sender's name)  
**Box 25th**  
(Sender's address)  
**Romney, W. Va.**  
**Dec. 26, 1943**  
(Date)

Hello Paul;  
I was the day after Christmas - and I am writing to my five brothers. How ain't that nice?  
We had a nice Christmas but none like it use to be but nobody is fishing. James Neil and Gene were up for most of the day. Gene doesn't know much about Santa Claus but he had fun playing with the toys.  
We finally heard Arthur since he landed in Fla. His address is:  
% Arthur E. Oates  
C144-D, A.R.F.O.C.S.  
Sp. 13, MAYFAIR HOTEL  
Room - 206  
Miami Beach, Fla  
If you want to hear from him, you'll probably have to write to him first.  
I heard the girls down there are crazy about American soldiers. You'd better watch out you might get hooked. your sister  
V-MAIL  
Hannah May

No. (CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dr. Paul D. Oates - 35211533  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of Engineer, 70 P.M.  
O.C.E. U.S.A. 608. A.P.O. 501  
San Francisco Calif

Mrs. Hannah Oates  
Romney  
W. Va.  
Jan. 8, 1944

Dear Paul, I have got so many letters to Amy from you, I am so glad, but sorrow I haven't got down to writing sooner. I did persuade W.M. to take all five of you boys on June, after James and the next one was call out to Jamaica. Gene was very sick just got back this Thurs morning Gene had the flu, was a lot better when he left. when I return home Charles was here was home two day, he looking fine was going to take get his picture taken in Acumbi on his way back, his plans was to take Pop and I too, so sometime in the near future you will get those picture you want. Arthur was to have his taken when he went back in Dec, so he is in Fla now, very busy in school. I did get a letter from him last week, glad you got your Xmas box I sent it to you. Mrs Taylor and Frank here for she payed for the most of the thing that was in it. I will be sending your short now shortly, failed to get your Kay woody, if you want one we might get one in Winchester. We had a very good James, James family was here, wished you boys was here to enjoy some dinner, we are having dinner and got very cold. Love Mother Oates

V-MAIL

No. (CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dr. Paul D. Oates - 35211533  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of Engineer, 70 P.M.  
O.C.E. U.S.A. 608. A.P.O. 501  
San Francisco, Calif. For via

Dr. Paul Oates  
47 Chestnut St  
Wagonsville N.C.  
Jan. 18, 1944

Dear Paul,  
I guess you thought that I had forgotten all about you but really I haven't. Although I have been rather busy lately. I am waiting my job here at the Telephone Co. and they want give me a release so I'll have to wait 30 days before I can get into England. I may come back here to get the release that if they will take me. I'm going home for a couple of weeks.  
Marian went shopping. So I'm taking care of Baby Red today. Jimmy is into something. Some one told me that Helen Anne flunked out of Officers Training. old Mrs. Harmon Thompson did the other day. Jimmie's main husband, joined the Elks. They are going out in a couple of weeks. James what's that's not was somewhere. Shating at home.  
Everget is ok - now is you as I know. He all had the flu - had Colds I was a two week party - Christmas - New Year. near you. my mother would be glad to see you. I would quite like to see you. Always  
Mother Oates

V-MAIL

No. 31114 (CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dr. Paul D. Oates - 35211533  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of Engineer  
O.C.E. U.S.A. 608. A.P.O. 501  
70 P.M. San Francisco Calif

Mrs. R. F. Oates  
Romney  
W. Va.  
Jan. 18, 1944

Dear Paul, It sure look like winter here had another 8 in, snow Sunday morning. The boys are having a big time sled riding. I hope you had a good time on your sleigh. but you must not neglect Corita. I sure do look for those weekly letter from you boys. The boys have three and four games of ball. Each with the girls doesn't play so often. played Keyser last night. W.M. said it sure was a good game but Kayser beat them. W.M. is some ball player. she has been high pointer. made 60 points in three. she came home last week with a bruise on nose and sore all over. but went to school the next day. she is not as little any more. her wt. 120 lb. great a baby. but spoiled. but a very good girl. Bob. Day he don't hear from you very often. you ought to write him. he says his two mo. down there seems two yr. Old Mr. Tompson will be buried today he is 93 old. Louder went to Camp last Sat to join the Air Navy Cadet. Paul keep up your writing to me some time little boy got a good spanking. Love  
Mother Oates

V-MAIL

No. (CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dr. Paul D. Oates - 35211533  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of Engineer  
O.C.E. U.S.A. 608. A.P.O. 501  
70 P.M. San Francisco, Calif

Mrs. R. F. Oates  
Romney  
W. Va.  
January 24 1944

Dear Paul, So glad to get your letter this evening you wrote to Dan. the first time your letter had a hole cut in it, you wrote where you was on your sleigh, don't let those pretty girls get you down. for I am looking for a another letter soon. why don't you write Bob. he said he had heard from you for some time. he is expecting to go to New Zealand soon for a check up. he was looking forward to big steaks three or four times a day. plenty places to go. and the beach be full of good looking girls what a time. we still have some snow. but some of it left today and it was warmer. I had James & home from their visit Sunday. James had a good time went to Ball game. on Fri he see little Sis play and make high pointer. Elmer & Margie. James friend went with her. The boys played about four games this week. Keyser & Jim. They have lost some girls now. your shorts are on the way to you. Could you Kay woody maybe send him. we will come across once. Take it easy and write soon. Love  
Mother Oates

V-MAIL

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. *11/21/44*

*11/21/44*

**Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211553**  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1, Office of the Engr.  
 USA S.O.S. APO 501  
 San Francisco, Calif.

**Mrs. Neil Inge**  
 Hanging Rock, Pa.

January 29, 44

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Hi, Big Chick!

How did the furlough go? Fine, I hope. He didn't leave from you during those two weeks, anyway. He from a favor and don't forget to write her each week she kinda worries when you don't.

Gene is still growing and more fun than ever. He had the flu right after Xmas. Grandma Oates came out and took care of him - now he's okay. He and I were up home for a few days last week - Had a swell time! (Wish you were there!)

Neil's still working as hard as ever. His new crop this year is going to be onions - of course. Will plant them next to the potatoes - He! That's old and corny - but it's true this time.

N. Mary is the star player on the basketball team this year. She sent you the school paper - you'll see what she. She's quite a gal. Write soon.

**V - MAIL**

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FORM NO. 11

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. *26/2/44*

*26/2/44*

**Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211553**  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
 OCE USA S.O.S. APO 501  
 Office of the Engineer  
 70 P.M. San Francisco, Calif.

**Mrs. R. F. Oates**  
 Romney  
 WVA  
 Feb. 10, 1944

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul.

You don't know how glad I was to get your long letter. Glad you enjoyed your furlough I know it was quite a break for you. I do hope the next one will be back to the States.

Bob says he is ready to come back now I don't think he has much to do he says he is having a swell time. Good eats but getting to fat. I sent him some T Shirts I hope they wasn't to big they were big enough to fit his mother. we don't have any snow here now about two wks ago about eight in, snow came on Sunday, I think Pop woke up ever body on the 21. but about seven or he miss you boys alot and so glad to read your letters sake were coming when he come home he is real well this winter I am O.K. to. trying to hold my <sup>nerves</sup> down until this is all over with and you boys can come back. M. M. is very busy. she will rite after the ball games are over. The Tournament Mar 3, at Keyser. Play Piedmont here with Romney is very dull show & ball games very few boys left - so long until next wks. <sup>son.</sup>

Love,  
 Mother Oates

**V - MAIL**

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FORM NO. 11

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. *48/2/44*

*48/2/44*

**Sgt. Paul Oates 35211553**  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1, Office of the Engr.  
 USA S.O.S. APO 501  
 San Francisco, Calif.

**A. Montgomery**  
 2457  
 Romney, Pa.

Feb 10, 1944

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul.

Home again! For Mrs. Aunt Anna tells me that you had a furlough, but stayed in Australia. Did you have a nice time. I sure hope so. John + I have seen each other since this month. It is nice to see you when she comes to town. Back Paul but her family seems to be the happiest one I have ever read into. I really sort of envy her.

Supposed Seville is home for a few days, this is his first time home. He is looking swell.

I quit my job in Huntington and came home for awhile. don't know exactly now what I will do. Mother is keeping me very busy right now. There always seems to be something around here to do.

Everyone is alright at home as far as I know. At last in your family and mine. of course Romney is rather dead. From what I understand your little sister is quit popular, and getting a grown up little lady. Write when you can Paul. Mother + I'll send you love.

**V - MAIL**

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No. *48/2/44*

*48/2/44*

**S/SGT. PAUL D. OATES 35211553**  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1, Office of the Engr.  
 USA S.O.S. APO 501  
 70 PM San Francisco, Calif.

**O/C CATS, ARTHUR E.**  
 Sq. 13, CLASS 44-D  
 AFDCS  
 MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

15 February 1944

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Hey!

How you doing down under? Are you getting to take after your big brother Buck? Guggler!

You asked for it. Here is the synopsis of the past six months. Cholera and was indicated last June; two weeks furlough (inactive duty); - Reassigned centered at Camp Lee, Virginia; eight days later arrived at OCS, North Carolina; five months later arrived at OCS, Miami Beach; two and a half months later I am writing you. Just finished one to Bob. Specify subject on which details are requested, if any.

Speaking of guards - I have done three guards here at OCS. My first parole (not including CMTG); - manual of arms (a report, no less); - first pistol range (qualification 71%); take any position - have taken every position - in the squadron from best private to CO, but generally get stuck with the guidon. First O.G. and am expecting my first KP on the next BIVOUAC during the next ten days. We are off Monday morning.

But would like to come over and have a beer with you. How is the test? You told me about the game, how is the test? Things generally going along with you? Haven't any fun?

Take it easy and let me hear from you

Best of luck -  
 Buck

**V - MAIL**

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No. *15/21*  
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211093  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
U.S.A. 505-A P.O. 501  
P.M. San Francisco Calif  
Mrs Hannah Oates  
(Sender's name)  
Romney  
(Sender's address)  
USA W.Va.  
Feb. 11 1944  
(Date)

Dear Paul. I know you are very busy since you came back from your furlough. But I would like to hear from you. I had gotten a letter from all the boys this wk. but you and none last wk. just a card from Arthur he is very busy studying he says he is taking up six subject he hardly get time to sleep he had got some letters from you boys he would answer them next mo. he would have more time that is a long time to wait for a <sup>any</sup> letter late than news. I bought you a nother Bond yesterday. Listen we are making a drive at the church for a p. parsonage. we cant build one rite away. but we are buying bonds. we have about 2000 worth Bond all ready. Some of the Soldiers boy from the church has all ready has give Bonds in outbor of the class. Let take care of them. Any time you can give one O.K. think it over. we have a new Preacher Mr. McDonald. he seems to be a good worker. he is from Martinsburg and his wife to. they live here. Bob & June has moved back to Washington Bob has a job at Bolling field they have a sweetest little girl firm no. <sup>she miss her very much. so long keep those letters coming</sup>  
Love Mother Oates  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FORM NO. 11

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No. *15/21*  
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt Paul D. Oates 35211578  
Engr Comm, Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
U.S.A. 505-A P.O. 501  
P.M. San Francisco Calif  
Mrs Romney J Oates  
(Sender's name)  
Romney  
(Sender's address)  
USA W.Va.  
Feb. 25 1944  
(Date)

Dear Paul. Thanks Million for the M.C. so glad to get your long letters to know you are all O.K. you dont mind working hard. you are strong and can take it. Glad you are getting the Review it will tell you all about this war Bond done. I dont know much about it I will tell you. I dont know every body bought you. it seem like most every body bought Bonds. The first of the M.C. when your check come in I will take care of the money you sent me and get you another 10.00 Bond. and that will make you 10.00 Bonds. I have at home in a little book. when and how many Bonds are in a box in each. Bob has several too. we have ten buying Bond. for your self and for the parsonage fund if it is O.K. I will buy 20.00 Bond in honor of your class. Mother H. is this teacher now. Jim Downan is come on 10 day furlough from June since Sep 3. Charles wont get the furlough until April. Bill. May. Arthur dont hear from him very often he is very busy school is out. May maybe he can come home from school. I dont know the girl in Aunt. We are all O.K. Love  
Mother Oates  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FORM NO. 11

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No. *15/21*  
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt Paul D. Oates 35211093  
Engr. Comm Zone 1  
Office of the Engineer  
U.S.A. 505-A P.O. 501  
P.M. San Francisco Calif  
Mrs R. J Oates  
(Sender's name)  
Romney  
(Sender's address)  
USA W.Va.  
March 7 1944  
(Date)

Dear Paul, we really had winter weather here Sunday Sat. it rained all day, and the day with sheet of snow. Sunday was so see you had well. but that didnt keep you from coming up on Sat. nite and back on Sun. for her birthday dinner. June has a pet lamb she know what we are talking about- when you talk about it. they keep Neil busy. nite and day they have 20. Read your passage March 4 your picture sure is good so nature of you. so this is what M said your ear and hair and you need a shave. and hair need a comb. Alita open her eyes when she saw it. well! that Paul. she look like a abolitionist for Mabel to face. you nite a tall him. she same old but Jim leaving for good for a while take her down abit. M. is in the Senior play. Started practice last nite. had a good time at the tournament at Keyport she says she is going to take a day off and nite to her brother until next wk.  
Love Mother Oates  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT FORM NO. 11

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No. *15/21*  
(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To 5/Sgt. Paul OATES 35211578  
Engr. Comm. Zone 1, Office of Eng  
USASOS - APO 501 5 P.M.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF  
From # 35761542  
PR. CHAS OATES  
STA. HOSP. EPS  
LACARNE, OHIO  
March 11, 1944  
(Date)

Hi Paul!  
I am sorry that I haven't answered sooner, but I haven't been able to get any stationery. I have got some now.  
Do you want to know who I am doing. I am now on night duty in a ward. I am on the swing shift with one night off per week. My job is about that of a nurse. I have been writing up charts and giving hypos. It gets pretty tiresome until we get a little excitement now and then. Such as a good looking civilian employer from the Army grounds get hurt. we have two now. One a red head and the other a brunette. Both free, white and 20. Some fun!!  
Went through the infiltrating course last week. I'm really for P.O.B. they say that will be some time in June. I may get a 10 day furlough before I go. I hope.  
Our T.O. in field here also. that is why I want to be shipped out. Don't want to hard?  
Charlie

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt Paul D. Oates - 35211553  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
 Office of The Engineer  
 U.S.A. 505-A P.O. 801  
 S.F.M., San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. R. F. Oates  
 (Sender's name)  
 Romney  
 (Sender's address)  
 W.C.R.  
 March 10-1944  
 (Date)

Dear Paul, your letter was almost two wk getting over here, so glad to get it and to know you are O.K. we are too / up has never miss a day going to Kyeen (now if your head was close & would knock on it just a saying) just havin' fun I dont know of another family. That get along as we do no fighting just a lots of fun. The girls have been away long enough to notice it - too and talk about it. Yes just a yr 25 Feb. It seem like teenage I didnt hear that - you landed until 1/10 P.M. It sure was a long wait, it was about three wk, until I heard from "Bob" that he landed. They are not - much new to ride about - this wk. the weather is just a little warmer. which I am very glad, but the ground is frozen yet. I am sending P. Harbo some r mail Stationery I want to write to you and Bob. They dont seem to have it where he is at. I am looking for Mildred and Boys next wk. Every one enjoy looking at your big picture. P.D. will mail a frame for you. Mother Oates

V-MAIL

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No. \_\_\_\_\_

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

S/Sgt Paul D. Oates 35211553  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
 Office of The Engineer  
 U. S. A. 505-A P. O. 801  
 S.F.M. San Francisco, Calif.

Charles Ray Sine  
 (Sender's name)  
 Romney, W. Va.  
 (Sender's address)  
 March 16, 1944  
 (Date)

Hello Paul; Well fella I sure was pleased with that copy of Yank and it sure is Yankee!! I have been meaning to write you for a long time but you know how lazy I always was, well I have improved for the worse. Of course spending the last three months in bed has done nothing to improve my character. The old town is dead!! Ill try and give you a word picture of night life. The town seems to liven up about three thirty in the evening when the kids from school let out their up until about the kids are tink. About seven o'clock the streets are quiet as a grave with the exception of a few trucks hauling coal etc that pass through the town. By eight o'clock the street lights are on and every other light except at the Alpine and Corbetts and Hills are out. Sometimes even the Green Palm is shut. The Green Palm is usually closed by ten. And when the second show lets out the town is really dead. Only the street lights. And a few dim night lights in the stores. A small glow from the New Century. But the only time the town seems normal is Saturday. All the farmers come in to stand on the corners and eat peanuts or go down to the Greets or Joes to get plastered. The reason it is normal is it used to be that the town kids left on Sat night and the Farmers took over but now it is that the town kids are practically gone the Farmers show up anyhow. Even with all the gas rationing these farmers must have oil wells the way I see them driving by on Saturdays. They chase around in empty trucks, pickups, etc. Only three local garages still exist, Rannelle, Gross and Pancoates. And they are busier than ever. With more wrecks than ever. Now when they wreck the have to have it fixed up and boy do they wreck them. For the last three days we have been having the Most Wonderful Weather. Yes I want to capitalize because spring seems to be here. Today is one of those warm drowsy days hazy enough that the blue sky doesn't show through yet everything is bright in the soft diffused light. There isn't a breath of air stirring and the spring birds are having a Sinatra contest. Lawns are turning from brown to greenish brown. Well Paul I guess the wintery blasts are starting in your part of the world I suppose it is just approaching the weather we call Indian Summer. I hear from Bob occasionally and Charlie was in to SHUX see me twice. Well I really feel swell, I have gained forty pounds and as fat as a pig. I was over to my doctor for an X-Ray Tuesday Mar 14 and much to their amazement the large cavity in my right lung has healed to the extent that they cant find it and the left lung is sound as a dollar now. They say that with three months more of bed rest Ill be up and at them. Well Ill cut off paper but will write again soon

V-MAIL

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt Paul Oates 35211553  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
 Office of The Engineer  
 U.S.A. 505-A P.O. 801  
 San Francisco, Calif.

A. Montgomery  
 (Sender's name)  
 Box 57  
 (Sender's address)  
 Romney, W. Va.  
 Mar 19, 1944  
 (Date)

Dear Paul,  
 Say aren't you going to drop me a note & tell me how you are? Say you'll do it! I am working at Jackson 5 & 10. It sorta like the work & it didnt to heavy work I see you are after almost every Sat. mite. Jimmy Davies died last Friday. Poor kid I missed & was for the best for he couldnt hardly eat anything. Several of the boys came home. Bob Baird came in from India. Bob Long from S. America. Please Sam is home. the same reason. Jimmy egg isnt he?

Saturday and man winters came back to us. It is snowing & sleeting outside open several days of nice weather, than this! we are all alright. & cause dad is getting ready for spring & Easter with flowers but mostly plants for the farm.

There are several married men who have come for the choice from Romney. around 45 they say from the County. Sam Romney will be a "no mans land" Write Sam Always always always

V-MAIL

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No. \_\_\_\_\_

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Sgt Paul Oates 35211553  
 Engr. Comm. Zone 1  
 Office of The Engineer  
 U. S. A. 505-A P. O. 801  
 San Francisco, California

A. Montgomery  
 (Sender's name)  
 Box 57  
 (Sender's address)  
 Romney, W. Va.  
 March 20, 1944  
 (Date)

Dear Paul,  
 I guess by now you have sailed, so I'm writing to you anyway. At least you will be having a letter. I dont know just how much news there will be. It is sorta dull around here. I am getting along swell with my work. I got a card from Bob, he soon landed for New Mexico. I am writing this all together to have spare - Mind? Marion & Sammie were out for a week - it was really fun having them around. It seemed like how again. Judy Wendens & Margaret Bullough got married a couple of weeks ago. P. Ken & baby Schulte were married last Wednesday. Betty she got the Cap. Tuesday night. She has done six months of hard work & that is her first promotion. He was scared for a while while - afraid that she wasnt going to pass her test.

Mother is fixing my favorite meal. Spagetti & meat balls & love it. We are to be rationed on meat. Sugar, & cheese. But Paul if rationing means helping you boys in the home. we americans are willing to do it. & cause some well prosper about it but Ill try not only in people & had will & paid my share with it & I dont know!

Always always always  
 Always

V-MAIL





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No. R. Simmons U.S.C. 71  
(Sender's name)

**To:** Sgt. Paul D. Oates 35211653  
Engineers Reproduction Sect.  
Hq. 85-USASOS-APC 923  
P.O. Box San Francisco, Calif.

**From:** Carter Hall  
(Sender's address)  
Alexandria Hosp  
Alexandria, Virginia  
July 9th 1944  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul -

Before I tell you anything else - let me tell you how thrilled I was over the picture Paul it is wonderful - honestly - you look just like you should speak to me. Thanks a million. All the girls - yell when they see it. Yours quite popular in Carter Hall. The picture of the "Clyffter post" was quite interesting. See that you'll never guess where I am. In N. Va. Really it feels good to feel the good old mountain air blowing in your face. Has gotten a good burn too. Back some legs - oh! My jacks are fine - my air baby has gotten so - I hardly know him. I got here Mon. July 3rd. Went up to see Trilly & Harry. They were in the garden. They really have a nice one. Both the boys are fine. I want to spend a day or two with them before I go back to Alt. On the 4th. Spent pt. of day at the blood bank at Charlottesville Hosp. How did you celebrate the 4th or should I ask? In having my toaster cut at 7:00 on Wed. July 12th. Wants hell my hand? Don't worry see him. How would let you say enough do they? See with love & love  
Lenny

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No. Mrs. Hazel Alcorn  
(Sender's name)

**To:** Sgt. Paul Oates 35211653  
Hq. 85-USASOS-APC 923  
U.S.A.S.O.S. APO 301 1/2 Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

**From:** Box 87  
(Sender's address)  
Franklin, N.C.  
July 9, 1944  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dear Paul:

Been a long time, eh! Trying to do better. We are well as usual. The boys are big and strong. Bill reminds me so much like you and Bobby like like Bob. I mean in looks too. I believe this is my first opportunity to thank you the nice little spoons you sent the boys. They would like to have them all the time, but I want them to stay strong. It was nice of you to thank of them. You'll have to send another to the son born to Mrs. Neil Frye this coming Aug. 9. No, there is none on the way at this time just yet. I'll let you know soon as there is. Maybe I can make it next August.

Harry's mother died June 7 and his Dad is living with us. He is 76 and very proud of it. We plan to spend a week's vacation down home the last of July. Hope that won't cheat you out of a letter. Sometimes Mom has a awful time getting around to letters to her boys when my boys are there. We still live the same house and have a good garden. Not as good a Bad Oates but darn good for us. We don't do much partying these days. It's hard to get anyone to stay with the boys. Love  
Mildred

**V - MAIL**

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No. From  
Pfc. Charles Oates  
(Sender's name)

**To:** T/Sgt. Paul Oates 35211653  
Engineers Reproduction Sect.  
Hq. 85-USASOS-APC 923  
% Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

**From:** STA. Hosp. C.P.G.  
(Sender's address)  
LACARNE, OHIO  
July 13, 1944  
(Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Hi! Big Bro,

Thanks alot for those T.S. cards they are really making a hit. I love to give them to all the officers who are patients here and to some other guys who are one on my T.S. list. Haven't heard from Bob for a long time now. I suppose he is waiting for the fountain pen I am getting for him. Haven't heard anything from Arthur either.

I got Hannah Mary an identification bracelet for graduating. It was a gold one and was it hard to find. The place I got this had 3 left.

Trying to get a 3 day pass the last of this month. Mildred and Harry are going to be home a week and I hope I can get there. I have been a good soldier and haven't been home for 3 months so I intend a good chance.

We don't have shorts - arms here. Well once in the last 9 months. The detachment furnishes with every thing free except the girl.  
"Be good Sgt."  
"Carroll Top"