

Pvt. Bob Nicolls  
 Company B  
 Fort Hayes  
 Ohio

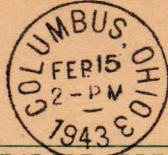


THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Donald Nicollis  
 Delaware Avenue  
 Poland, Ohio

Sat. Feb, 13, 1943  
 Hello Don,  
 How was the game last night?  
 How many points did you get?  
 Good luck in the tourney. I hope  
 Poland wins.  
 You should see the equipment  
 we get. It's really tops. The  
 clothes are the best and warm.  
 I haven't been cold since I've  
 gotten my clothes. I've met some  
 nice fellows. Three especially, Ted,  
 and two Harolds. Ted is assigned  
 to the paratroopers. He has K.P.  
 today and also tomorrow. The tourney  
 Derby horse race is on the radio  
 now. Our helmets are made  
 from a fibre like plastic. An  
 armour plate fits on it when we  
 go to battle. The guardhouse  
 inmates eat in one corner of the  
 mess hall. Five fellows surround  
 them with sawed off shotguns. They  
 are searched before leaving the hall.  
 They treat those guys rough. We  
 move pretty soon. I don't know when  
 of our hockey  
 Bob

Pvt. Bob Nicolls  
Company B  
Fort Hayes  
Ohio



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. S. E. Nicolls  
Conneautville,  
Pa.

Sun. Feb. 14, 1943

Hello grandpa and grandma,

Well I'm in the Army at last. I got here last Thursday evening. I expect to be sent out from here either today or tomorrow. I'll give you my address when I get where I'm going. Friday we got our clothes, interviewed, two shots, and an intelligence test. I got 129 on the test. I took it over on Saturday. I don't know why. The food is good and the clothes are the best. The fellows are fine. There are four of us that stick together. Last night, three of us went into Columbus to see Bob Hope in "They Got Me Covered." Today, Ted, Harold, and I went to church. We get up at four-thirty and don't have to be in until eleven although lights go out at nine. I haven't written to Al yet but I'll write to him next. I like this a lot. I hope I get sent down south. It was three below at six this morning.

Your grandson  
Bob



Pat. Bob Nicolls (35535456)  
Hg. Bty. 335<sup>th</sup> F.A. Bn.  
A.P.O. # 448  
Camp McCain, Miss.



Free

U.S. Army

Mr. Don Nicolls  
26 Delaware Avenue  
Poland,  
Ohio



Pvt. Bob Nicolls (35535456)  
Hq. Coy. 335<sup>th</sup> F.A. Bn.  
A.F.O. #448  
Camp McCain, Miss.  
March 22, 1943

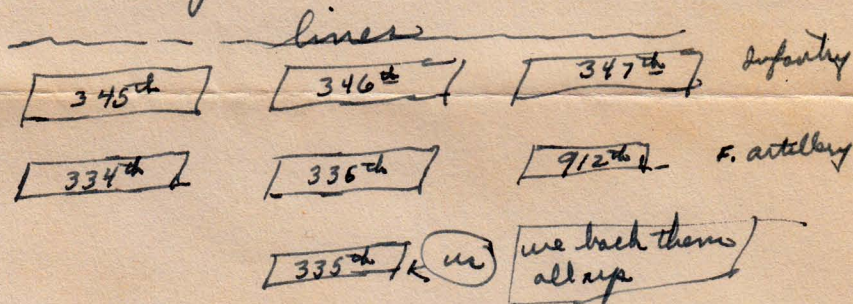


87<sup>th</sup> DIVISION  
CAMP MCCAIN  
MISSISSIPPI

Hello Don,

I'm not sure as to the number of men in a regiment but Sgt. Bergstrom said he'd help me look it up. He's not sure but we think it's a little over 3000 men. We'll see. I'll let you know soon.

You should see the army from the inside. I believe it would interest you. We learn all about and how to operate the 155 mm. howitzers. That is what is in our battalion. 334<sup>th</sup>, 336<sup>th</sup>, & the 912<sup>th</sup> have 105's. This is how we go into battle.



We have had gas warfare classes. We've had attacks of chlorine, chloropicrin, phosgene, & Lewisite gases. Also tear gas and smoke screens. I got a good dose of Phosgene and was pretty sick for awhile. I've got my gas mask fixed so that I could live in it. I can sure put it on in a hurry. We'll get a lot more yet.

We've got so much to learn in so short a time. I'm doing my darndest. I've got a lot of notes. I'm making a notebook.

A battalion (F. artillery) consists of about a thousand men. It is divided into five batteries. Headquarters - it consists of communications, drivers, unattached men, fire direction center, etc. (anti tank & anti aircraft). A, B, & C - these are



the firing batteries. Each has four howitzers making twelve in the battalion. Service - this is the supplies, such as equipment, food, clothing, etc.

We have been in quarantine for several weeks. We get out at midnight tonight. It was lifted. One week was for spinal meningitis and the rest was for measles. Some of the guys are still in the hospital with measles, though.

I'll try to write some things to you that you might want to know. Just ask me.

Sarah says that you are taking charge of this issue of the "Seminarian". Also she is going to send me some maps so that I'll know where I am. Find out if she's sending me any war maps. If not, how about sending me some?

This is nice spring weather.

Yours brother  
Bob



Pvt. Bob Nicolle (36535456)  
 Hq. Btry. 335<sup>th</sup> F. A. Bn.  
 A. P.O. #448  
 Camp McCain, Miss.



Mr. Don Nicolle  
26 Delaware Avenue  
Poland,  
Ohio



Pvt. Bob Nicolls (35535456)  
Hg. Bty. 335th F. A. Bn.  
A. P. O. # 448  
Camp McCain, Miss.  
April 18, 1943



87TH DIVISION  
CAMP MCCAIN  
MISSISSIPPI

Dear Don,

Well Don, how is everything with you? How is school coming along? Does the school paper keep you very busy? How is the track team shaping up? What events are you in? How high do you highjump?

I'll answer some of your questions. Our howitzers aren't mounted. They are pulled by trucks. A rifle bullet can't even puncture their tires. The tires are up to my shoulders. We, I mean the firing batteries<sup>A, B, & C</sup> will aim the howitzers by radio or telephone. Our advanced observer telephones the position and such to the fire direction center. They have computers who figure the range, elevation, depression, type of shell, type of charge, etc. They telephone that to the firing batteries. That's an idea of it. We will have two planes for observation purposes only. They will be equipped with radios. I believe one will be a helicopter. I haven't seen any M10's. Our anti-tank guns are the 37 mm. We call them pea shooters. Our 335th is the 155 mm howitzer battalion. We back up the whole works. Three batteries; A, B, & C; are the firing batteries. They fire the howitzers. Headquarters, us, furnish communications, anti-aircraft & anti-tank protection, and other such brain work. We are the white-



collar boys. The other battery, service, supplies the food, equipment, ammunition, and such.

Well Don, our troops in Tunisia really are doing a good job. The British 8<sup>th</sup> Army has covered the most ground, yes, but they really have had the easier part. Our U.S. troops haven't gained so much but they've had more resistance and difficulties to overcome.

This camp has an average age of 22 years for enlisted men and either 25 or 28 for officers. Plenty young. A lot of the fellows in our battery were taken out of school.

We've had such nice weather for so long so I suppose will have plenty of rain now. It's sure muddy now.

Write when you get time.

your brother  
Bob



Post. Bob Nicolls (35535456)  
Hq. Btry. 335 F. A. Bn.  
A.P.O. # 448  
Camp Mc/Cain, Miss.



Free  
U.S. Army

Mr. Don Nicolls  
76 Delaware Avenue  
Poland,  
Ohio



Pvt. Bob Nicolle (35535456)  
Hq. Bty. 335<sup>th</sup> F.A.Bn.  
A.P.O. # 448  
Camp McCain, Miss.  
May 13, 1943.

Dear Don,

It's almost five in the morning and we've been up since before three-thirty. We are going on the rifle range to fire for records today.

Yesterday we fired for practice. We fired the famous Piranhas. They had told us to pad our shoulders with socks for the gun would kick but I didn't. I told them that I wouldn't be padding my shoulder on the battle field so why here. The first shot, I was a little scared, I guess. I was very surprised. It didn't seem to kick at all. It really kicks about two or three inches but it isn't even noticeable. It was sure fun. I made 120 out of a possible 180. Anglin got 156 out of 180. He was sure shooting. We fired slow fire and then rapid fire. Rapid fire is like a machine gun. That's what's fun. Rapid fire prone position (lying down) I got 35 out of a possible 40. We have to remain standing until the targets start to come up and then we can get into our positions and fire. In rapid fire, you just keep pulling the trigger. In rapid prone position, I got three bullseyes, and five four pointers. Bulls are equal to five. I hope I do better today.



Don, in the field artillery, there isn't any kind of a sergeant that loses his rank while in the field. It may be so in other divisions but not in this one. The sergeants that work in the offices keep the rank while in the field.

In the army, no one is allowed to work, that is repair or such, on the radios except the radio sergeant and radio electrician, also the signal corps. We learn to operate and align them. If I do get my T-4 rating (radio electrician), I will learn how to repair them and such. I sure hope I can get the rating and go out on the cadre.

Net communications is a group of radios or telephones or both that are working together. There are command nets, fire direction nets, etc. It's a little hard to explain.

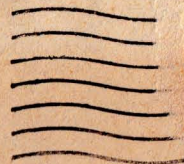
The guys are turning the lights out to get a little more sleep. The rest of the battery has left for the range.

Good luck to you and Gene in the track meets. Keep up the good work.

Your brother  
Bob



1ST SGT BOB NICOLLS - 35535456  
BTRY 'C' 575 FA BN.  
APO 758 7PM NY, NY.



MR. DONALD S NICOLLS  
82 EAST 18TH AVENUE  
COLUMBUS,  
OHIO



DARMSTADT, GERMANY  
17 JULY 45

DEAR DON,

I'LL WRITE YOU A LETTER WHILE I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING THIS AFTERNOON AND BEFORE I GET MY DETAIL LIST OUT FOR TOMORROW. I HAVE BEEN OKAY AND NOT TOO BUSY LATELY. WE HAVE A PRETTY NICE CAMP HERE BUT WE ARE GOING TO PULL OUT THIS WEEKEND FOR WHERE (?). I HAVE HAD THE JERRIES MAKE US A SWIMMING POOL THAT IS DARN GOOD, A BALLPARK, TWO VOLLEYBALL COURTS, ETC. SO YOU SEE THAT WHILE WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO WE DO HAVE SOME RECREATION THAT KEEPS US BUSY AND THAT WE CAN GET SOME EXERCISE. WE HAVE A DARN GOOD SOFTBALL TEAM THAT HAS BEEN WINNING QUITE A FEW GAMES. THIS MORNING WE HAD A DOUBLE HEADER. WE WON THE FIRST GAME FROM 'A' BATTERY BY THE SCORE OF 12 TO 1. THEN WE DROPPED THE SECOND GAME 5 TO 2 TO THE 3RD ARMoured DIVISION. WE BEAT 'B' BATTERY THE OTHER DAY BY THE SCORE OF 15 TO 2.

YOUR LETTERS SOUND AS THOUGH YOU ARE GETTING ALONG ALL RIGHT AT COLLEGE. I'M GLAD THAT YOU ARE DOING SO WELL ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM BUT JUST REMEMBER THAT STUDIES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. MAYBE NEXT FALL OR THE NEXT I CAN SEE YOU IN A FEW GAMES. THE BEST OF LUCK TO YOU IN YOUR NEW LIFE, DON.

MOST OF THE FELLOWS OVER HERE DO NOT CARE MUCH FOR THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS AS WE DON'T SEE WHERE A GUY CAN REALLY BENEFIT VERY MUCH FROM IT.

YOU MENTIONED THAT MR. BARTON WAS DOWN THERE. WHAT IS HE DOING? IS HE TEACHING OR IS HE STUDYING ALSO?

I JUST NOW RECEIVED YOUR JULY 8TH LETTER AND WILL ALSO ANSWER IT. I SPENT THE FOURTH JUST LOAFING AROUND EXCEPT FOR A FLAGRAISING THAT WE HAD HERE AT CAMP. MOST OF THE DAY WAS SPENT IN THE SWIMMING POOL.

I WISH THAT YOU COULD SEE THESE PEOPLE OVER HERE AND SEE HOW FAR BEHIND THEY ARE. THE GERMANS ARE THE MOST ADVANCED OF THE EUROPEANS. I HAVE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RUSSIANS, THE FRENCH, THE BRITISH, THE ITALIANS, THE POLISH, THE YUGOSLAVS, THE ARABIANS, AND MANY MORE AND IT IS NO EASY TASK AS THEY SEEM TO BE SO THICK HEADED. BUT I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH THAT I COULD NEVER GET ANY PLACE ELSE THAT I FEEL THAT I HAVE BEEN WELL REWARDED FOR MY TIME IN THE ARMY. I NOW HOPE THAT I CAN GET TO THE PACIFIC AREA SO AS TO SEE AND LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE OVER THERE.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW AS I HAVE MY TOMMOROW'S LIST TO GET OUT AT THIS TIME. GOOD LUCK AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF, DON.

Your brother  
Bob



1st Sgt Bob Nicolls - 35535456  
Btry C 575 FA. Bn.  
APO # 758 70PM N.Y. N.Y.

Missent to North Canton, Ohio



Mr. Donald J. Nicolls  
82 East 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus,  
Ohio



Furth, Germany  
Sept 20, 1945

Dear Son,

I'll write you a letter this evening while I'm in a writing mood. Very seldom that I do much writing. But I do think of you, Son. I received your August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> letters.

Sounds as though you are doing real well at college. Good. Continue to do so. Hope to see you play sometime - probably next year.

Right now we aren't doing much except guard duty. Every other night. Of course, I don't stand guard - just assign it.

Glad to hear that Pudge is on the high school team. He should be darn good.



So you're a 'Glamour Guy'  
now. Hmmm!

I had signed up to go to  
a college in either Paris or  
England for music but turned  
it down. I'd sure love to go  
but hell when a guy has been  
away from home for two years  
it's not so easy to stay longer.

Noticed in the paper that Davis  
ship just left England for the  
States. Plenty of traveling he does.

Enough for tonight. More  
later. The best of luck to  
you, don. Hit 'em hard and  
keep climbing.

Your brother  
Bob



1st Lt Bob Nicolle - 35535456  
Btry 'C' 575 FA. Bn.  
APO# 758 70th AFH N.Y., N.Y.

Postage Due 6 cents.

Mr. Don Nicolle  
82 East 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus,

← Paid Ohio  
Bill Clark





Furth, Germany  
~~to~~ October 2, 1945

Dear Don,

I'll write you a letter this evening while I'm at writing. I just can't seem to get to it.

We're having some real fall football and Halloween weather. Cool all of the time and we keep fires in our stoves all day. Wood and coal are hard to get & legally. I just send a few guys out with a truck and tell them to pick some up. They get it from the Jeries and then make them cut it up (the wood). I hate these Germans. They're no good. Reminds me of being on the line last winter when we would sit around a stove all day except to go to chow.

Payday yesterday and I sent another hundred and fifty dollars home. Makes me around thirteen hundred and fifty in cash now. Slowly growing! I saved practically all of that while overseas. Received your Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> letter today.



also I see where you guys knocked  
hell out of Missouri. Good and keep  
going. I'm backing you although I'm  
far off. Just hope I can make  
that Michigan game but doubt it.

Yeah, I noticed that Gene is now  
Praying For Copart. Wish I could give him  
my rating as soon as I leave the Army.

I kinda liked the picture "The Corn Is  
Green". Even Bette Davis for a change.

Was in Heidelberg today with St.  
Decker and we looked the town  
over good. Quite an interesting town.  
They look better to me when they  
are all flattened out by bombs or shells.

That's about all for now, Don, but  
I'll write again soon. The best of  
luck and good wishes to you and  
the team.

Your brother  
Bob



1st Sgt Bob Nicolle - 35535456  
Btry C 575 FA Bn.  
APO# 758 To PM N.Y. N.Y.



Mr. Don Nicolls  
82 East 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus,  
Ohio



Furth, Germany  
October 21, 1945

Dear Don,

Your letter of September 30<sup>th</sup> said "We lost it against Missouri." Well, right now as I listen to a re-broadcast of the Purdue game you aren't doing so well. Third quarter and Purdue leads 22 to 0. Brothers, I'm really praying for you to win. Cody scores again. Now 28 to 0. Fourth quarter under way now.

Well, we've been having real fall and football weather. Sunny but cool during the day but cold and foggy at night.

Friday afternoon we played 8 battery and lost 18 to 12. We play them again this week. I got my knee barged up but it's okay again now.

Well, the game is over and Ohio lost 35 to 13. Really, a great game. But then you can't win every game although it would be well to. The very best of luck to you and the team in the remaining games. I'm pulling for you very very much.



I see in today's "Stars and Stripes" that the Stully is one of the ships coming over to help return vets to the States. Swell. Wish I could ride it back.

'Tis now the following afternoon and if nothing interrupts I'll finish this letter to you, Don. It's shortly after three and already a heavy fog is rolling down from the mountains.

Had a little excitement last night. I took another fellow and walked around to check curfew in the town. We took over curfew patrol last night. The others that had it before were rather lax and the people got a bit bold.

Anyway I saw two guys and girls coming down from the cemetery - probably out there necking - and yelled 'halt' but they jumped the fence and started to run so we opened fire. Well we soon caught three but one girl got away. I believe



-3-

she was hit<sup>3</sup> because we did see some blood. I've checked at the doctor's but these damned people lie too much. Anyways I threw the other three in jail for the night. One of them - an officer in the Prant army - laughed at the "American soldatan" so we worked him over.

Today we put one to work cleaning our kitchen stoves and the officer we are having sweep the main street - but good. He has a sign on his back - I am sweeping the street because I was out after ten-thirty - in German. The people laugh but really hate us for it. But I hate them more so.

But it was good to take a shot at a German again. I had my .45 out for a little practice the other day and it's still a dead shot. I have two pistols that I'll try to get home. One is the Mauser I got in Marseille that I'll give to you for a



souvenirs; and the other is an Italian  
Beretta. Small but a good pistol. When  
I get dressed up I carry it as it's  
easily concealed in the hip or inside pocket.  
Never do I walk at night without a  
gun as the jerries really hate me.  
The other fellows - most of them - pal  
around with them but I associate  
only for business.

Well, Don, I'll write again soon and  
I hope that you make out all right  
at school. The best of luck to you.

your brother  
Bob