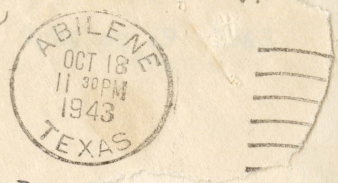


FROM Joseph F. Allen A.B. 931359424
Co. B, 53rd Med. Inf. Bn
Camp, Berkeley
Texas



Dear Miss McGlynn and The Civilian Defense Committee,

I was very glad to hear from you and to get the list of addresses of the fellows in the army from Salem. Since I am in the army I now realize what a swell job you and your committee are doing in keeping in touch with the fellows in the service. I hope that you people will keep up the good work.

You mentioned that you would like to hear something about Texas and what I am doing down here. As you probably guessed from my address I am in the medical department of the army. We have completed our basic training of hikes, classes, and details and are now doing nothing but details. After four weeks of picking up cigarette butts I am getting slightly bored with Texas, the army, and more particularly with details. Of course you realize that I am not complaining but I know you see my point. One consolation is that almost all of the men in my company are either college graduates or fellows who were in their junior

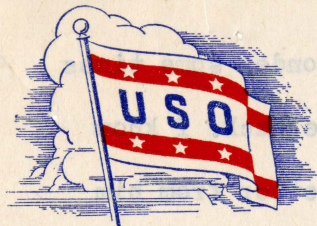
or senior year when they were drafted.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS • THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE
THE SALVATION ARMY • THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELERS AID ASSOCIATION

So if they have to do such jobs I guess that I a lowly
Sophomore should be willing to do them without complain
ing.

The social life in Abilene is rather limited,
because it is a city of schools , colleges and churches
at least that is the way the chamber of commerce puts
it. Therefore because of its reputation as a center of
culture and religion there are no saloons or liquor
selling establishments at all except bootleggers.
The whiskey they sell is a cross it seems between
kerosene, shellac, and low-priced gin. Most of the^{30/diers}
have tried it at least once and I suppose it has had
its good effect for I know several who are confirmed
prohibitionists now, or at least until they get out
of Texas.

The U.S.O. in this town really does a good
job of entertaining the soldiers even though the civi
ilian merchants try to make it apparent that their
only mission in life is to separate the soldier from
his money. The U.S.O. has a set schedule which they
follow every week. It consists of dances, bicyclepartie
and other similar amusements. Right now I am in a USO



writing rooms and am trying to operate one of their typewriters. Their are about a dozen Texas belles floating around this room trying to keep all "the poor dear soldiers" from getting lonesome, of course I know their intentions are good but I wish they would get a new line. Their standard approach usually, or I should say invariably goes something like this. "Good evening soldier, my name is Anna- Bell Higgins What's your's? Where do you come from?/ How long have you ~~be~~ been in the army? Do you like it? Well I am sorry ~~but~~ but I'll have to go and cheer up some body else. Good bye now." Personally I think they ^{should} either show a little more enthusiasm in their work or they should stay home and attend to their knitting until the boy friend which they all invariably have comes home from ~~the~~/// the service.

I was sorry to hear about ~~the~~ the building and I hope that the necessary repairs will have been completed by the time I return to school next

fall when the war is over I hope. I wonder some times
wether all the kids in my division are back. I know
Melville is in the Navy and I get a letter from him
once in awhile. It seems he is going to some kind
of gunnery school. I guess he likes it all right
for it seems to me he would like the Navy because
of the idea of a girl in every port but who am I to
talk. I also have wondered on several occasions
wether "Pat" was still true to "Bob" Torrey. To
sum it all up I have been wondering what the latest
gossip is at S.T.C.

I have tried to get some of the kids to
write once in awhile but so far the only ones I have
heard from are Mary Powers and Jane Cronin. If any
other people would care to write I assure them that
I would be very happy to hear from them.

I hope you will excuse the typing and
grammatical errors in this letter as it was ~~was~~ written
under rather ditracting conditions, namely the U.S.O.
girls as I have mentioned before. It's almost time to start
back to camp so hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Sincerely yuor's,

Joseph Allen