

Jacksonville Fla
Jan 2 - 1918

Dear Friend Stella:

I received a letter from you last night that was written on Dec. 26th saying that I hadn't answered any of your questions and am going to try and answer all of them today. I have been very busy ever since I have been here have worked every Sunday. I am off today and haven't anything to do only lay around and eat. I have plenty to eat but it is about the same every day. Now I will start in and answer your questions. I like the army fine what I have seen of it they are very strict with us but I guess that is the best for us. I haven't drilled any yet and won't as long as I am on this job. I don't know how long I will be on this they may keep me we don't never know what they are going to do with us until just a few minutes before they get ready to change. I haven't able to find out yet just how far Sertunde is from here

I thought that when I was going to
Holland that I was going to a
warm country but have found
out different. I have seen it snow
twice and the ground has been
frozen for four or five mornings
and haven't seen the sun but
very few days since I have been
here. The people here are wearing
they heavy cloaths and overcoats.
I am still close to the bay that
went from Cabelale but think
they are going to change him
soon. I think I have answered
about all of your question now I
don't know how many I have sent
you for I write every chance I
had if I hadn't heard from you.
How the mail is so long getting
around it is always from five
to seven days getting to me.
I have just had one letter
from the folks don't know either
they hear from me or not I
write them about every three days.
I had a Christmas card from home
and Glad Smith. How you know
how their father is now? I suppose
Jim is back now and you know
all the Burville news.

By the way how are you and
jim getting along? He ought
to be down here when he couldnt
see many girls.

What did you do for New years?
I put in a good day yesterday
got up at four thirty in the morn
and worked till almost ten last
night so you know I started
the new year out right. we have
got it arranged so now that we
work every other day. There is
four weeks two on each day.
I will tell you what we had
for new years dinner roast-pork-
gray mark potatoes green beans
apple sauce Bread butter and
coca a real good dinner if I
did help get it. I made my first
coca yesterday done very well
for the first. I used 7 lbs coca
10 lbs sugar and that made
about 32 gallons of coca ready
to serve. It takes about 35 gallons
of coffee for each meal so I
get lets practice making coffee.
The water is so bad down here
you cant hardly drink it and
there for I started to drink
coffee in the morning.

I haven't started smoking yet
and don't think I will the next
time you hear from me.

I had the pleasure of seeing
supper for a boy last night
that will leave to day for France
he gave him something extra,
he came and told us early
good by this morning before I get
out of bed. It was about seven
thirty this morning when I get
up in the morning it will be four
thirty. I want to make one trip
up there before they send me off
some where else. I don't suppose
they will take us from here to
the border. I will ring off hoping
this will reach you alright,

ad ever your friend,

Walter Patching

Camp

Joseph E. Johnston

Jacksonville, Fla.



Miss, Stella Waddell
Lancaster,
Tenn.

Walter Patching
Camp Joseph E. Johnston
Block 2-10 Reciving Co. 8
Jacksonville
Fla.