# **Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections**

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

## **Documents Online**

Title: Letter from Whitfield Bell Jr. to Mr. & Mrs. J. Wesley Potter

**Date:** June 6, 1945

Location: I-BellW-2001-1

## **Contact:**

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Frint the complete address in pials letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided an the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

MR + MRS. J. Wesky PotTER Vol. W. J. BELL. SR AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE DET. A. 620 WALNUT ST. A.P.O.228 CARLISLE New YORA. N.X. FENNSYLVANIA. 6 June 1945 Alast Ten. & Ther. tottet is you good it is to know that part as least up the war is over, and that the dilling and The pair are covery to are End ! There is sermany where I am how thing cracked wide goes at the ond, and though the are here the sur ray surge matter of days, it was a little have to Conprehend then the twist Class fire a Cause. In some ways the tardeas fast his now ahead. Certainly there is no peace a Europe today; and four loveryoses having Hitler, They have how all Kurnes to hating one another. Swowed for some time at the of the war Lideous of the Concentration Campon, filled with them and letre of all rationalities. and as soon as they were faling better, key free to adening the tran and aroman of other nations. The they surg can't to go have to fight the thesering The Viewach Storge The Price with being maines coone than The Matis. The Belgians say the headle with dies here ford. Everyone Criticates us for and sharting are the German in right. Now a concentration camp is harrily a fertile toil in which & grow the guitar orthing; but it is little dinouraging to see what venore is spread knowpant are. there peoples. But we have destroyed truck that was in He wan typteres and if we are hilling to pay the price - the absence from hows, tough winderses, Paro Rinking, and prography Referrer, the way be able to vanifate a best g the strong of world. HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? HAVE YOU FURTH V····-MAIL

### WAR & NAVY DEPARTMENTS V-MAIL SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

#### PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



5- 1945

To: MR. & MRS. J. Wesley Potter 620 WALNUT ST. CARLISLE PENNSYLVANIA

From: Vol. W. J. BELL. JR. AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE DET. A A.PO. 228 NEW YORK, N.Y.

6 June 1945

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Potter: - How good it is to know that part at least of the war is over, and that the killing and the pain are coming to an end! Here in Germany, where I am now, things cracked wide open at the end; and though we all knew the end was only a matter of days, it was a little hard to comprehend when the final "cease fire" came. In some ways the hardest part lies now ahead. Certainly there is no peace in Europe today; and from everyone's [hating?] Hitler, they have now all turned to [hating?] one another. I worked for some time at one of the most hideous of the Concentration Camps, filled with men and women of all nationalities. And as soon as they were feeling better, they fell to abusing the men and women of other nations. The Poles only want to go home to fight the Russians. The French charge the Poles with being worse than the Nazis. The Belgians say the French withheld their food. Everyone criticizes us for not shooting all the Germans in sight. Now a concentration camp is hardly a fertile soil in which to grow the greater virtues; but it is a little discouraging to see what venom is spread throughout all these peoples. But we have destroyed much that was in the German system, and if we are willing to pay the price – in absence from [home?], tough-mindedness, hard thinking, and prayerful actions, we may be able to [illegible] a bit of the sorry old world.

Whit.