Information Sheet

1189 Correspondence, 1943-1945.
One folder.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is correspondence written during World War II between James B. “Stony” Stone, who served in an Ordnance Battalion in the United States Army in the Southwest Pacific Theatre, and his parents, who lived in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri. The letters include news of friends and family, and a few newspaper clippings.

James Blain Stone, Jr., was born in at Springfield in Greene County, Missouri, on 25 September 1923, the son of James Blain Stone, Sr., and Ada Johnson (or Johnston). He died in Springfield on 25 December 1999 and is buried in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens. During the war his parents lived at 769 W. Walnut. After the war “Stony” lived at 823 W. Walnut and worked after 1952 for the St. Louis-San Francisco (“Frisco”) Railway Company.

There are twelve items in this collection, including ten letters from Stone to his parents, one letter from his parents to Stone, and a packet of newspaper clippings, mostly about flooding in southwestern Missouri in May 1943, from his parents to Stone [SEE the Shelf List.]. Due to wartime censorship, the letters from Stone to his parents aren’t very informative, noting essentially that he was at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, Camp Stoneman in California, and various locations in New Guinea. After advanced training Stone was assigned to the 818th Ordnance Battalion, with which his APO addresses indicate he served at Port Moresby, Oro Bay, and Biak Island. One letter related that he was a crane operator.

r1340  28 June 2007  Durbin Ridge Trading Company  Purchase

Shelf List

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Date Description

[03 May 1943]  JBS to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Stone, 769 W. Walnut, Springfield (Mo.). JBS is with the 2nd Ordnance Training Battalion, Ordnance Replacement Training Center, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. JBS has completed basic training and is now receiving advanced training. He has been to New York City on leave.

[23 May 1943]  Parents to JBS at Aberdeen; newspaper clippings, mostly concerning flooding in southwestern Missouri.
15 Aug 1943  Parents to JBS at Aberdeen, with clipping listing draftees from Springfield.

[1943]  JBS to parents. He is at APO 7051, Camp Stoneman, Cal., awaiting shipment overseas.

09 April 1944  JBS to parents, from “New Guinea.” He is with the 818th Ordnance Battalion at APO 929 (Port Moresby, New Guinea).

21 May 1944  JSB to parents, from “New Guinea.” 818th Ordnance Battalion, APO 929.

21 Oct 1944  JSB to parents, from “New Guinea.” He is with the 818th Ordnance Battalion, APO 503 (Oro Bay, New Guinea).


12 Nov 1944  JSB to parents, from “New Guinea.” 818th Ordnance Battalion, APO 503. “The crane I work on is a small one.”

09 Dec 1944  V-Mail, JSB to parents. 818th Ordnance Battalion, APO 503.

27 April 1944  JSB to parents. 818th Ordnance Battalion, APO 920 (Biak Island, New Guinea). Written on a V-Mail form, but sent as regular mail.

20 June 1945  JSB to parents, from “Biak Island.” 818th Ordnance Battalion, APO 920.

Index Cards

Aberdeen Proving Ground (Md.)
Biak Island (Indonesia)
Camp Stoneman (Cal.)
Greene County (Mo.)
New Guinea
Oro Bay (Papua New Guinea)
Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)
Springfield (Mo.)
Stone, James Blain, 1923-1929
United States. Army. Ordnance Battalion, 818th
World War, 1939-1945