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Sgt P. Centofanti
734th Eng. H.S. Co.
Camp Claiborne La
U.S. Army

ALEXANDRIA, LA
AUG 10
8 - PM
1943

Free

Miss Mary Massullo
19 S. Jackson St.
Youngstown 6 Ohio

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[[envelope]]

ILY

honey

[[/envelope]]

One of the most picturesque sights of Louisiana is the "Shrimp Fleet." Long before dawn these tiny boats go out for the day's haul, and are usually back before the sun is high. This is a dominantly Catholic second, and the tiny "Fleets" are blessed by the Church on their initial trip. The shrimpers chug down the Bayous and out into the bay, where shrimp abound in such great numbers that the catch is greater than that of any other state. Much of the shrimp is canned in the numerous fish factories, some dried to be shipped as far as China, and some shipped fresh to inland cities.

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Camp Claiborne, Louisiana

Aug. 9, 43

Dear sweetheart Mary
today I received your letter
of 6 very happy to from my
love glad you doing fine
so far I feel the same

Well darling today I received
two beautiful post cards from
you one of 5 and one of 7 very
glad to hear from you honey
once day I don't get letter
from you I feel very bad

Now honey about you to
to go back to school I don't
know what to tell you
but you say your people
argue with you to go back

to school now honey I know
what wrong with your folks
they are jealous they think
you might make to much
money but some day I
take you away from them
them they don't have no
one to argue with but
now do what they tell
you if they want you to
back to school go don't
worry about it

Now darling sure I been
always say to get married
so if I come home we'll get
married if I come home honey
I let you know about one
or two weeks before because
we got to have something

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Camp Claiborne, Louisiana

in room so you get everything
ready then as soon I get
home next day we get married
because I like sleep with
my wife about it a week what
do you say honey ha" ha"

Bye the way darling you
better go back to school if
you want to I don't know
what to say about it anyway
your mine now I should
tell you what to do
but you try the best
you can

Avery island, owned by one family since the time of Spanish grants, is completely surrounded by sea marsh and swampy thickets. Although on the island is found what is probably the largest salt mine in the world, one finds, too, one of the most beautiful gardens. The jungle gardens of Avery Island are filled with exotic plants and flowers from all over the world, combined with native vegetation. Masses of brilliant green trees and bearded live oak trees edge the quiet pools. Too, there is Bird City, where thousands of wild birds find refuge and food each year.

Now darling don't be surprise
if I came home because
I'm going try to be sick because
to many soldier getting
discharge I get so mad I
been in this army 18 months
and soldier come in army
2,3 months going home thats
not good so if I come home
don't say I'm sick something
because I'd feel strong better
every day I really hate
this army!

Also darling I received
letter from my brother
Emannelo he says every
one are in good health
but he been sick for
while.

Darling I wish I could

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Still as in the early days of Louisiana's sugar cane industry, there is backbreaking work to be done when cane cutting time comes in late summer. The stalks are still stripped of their leaves and cut by hand, since no machines have yet been made practicable. The cane is hauled in huge wagons to the barges on nearby bayous where it is transported to the cane mills. Still a colorful picture along the highways are sheds housing syrup vats, and in the late fall at dusk the fires of pine knots under the open kettles produce a beautiful effect.

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Camp Claiborne, Louisiana

be out of this army stay
home with my wife like
some body else do but
I hope this war over
would be over tomorrow
but my day is an way
then I can come home stay
with my sweetheart

Also I don't have much
more to tell you wishing
you best luck in world
your always
sweetheart
Pete Centofanti

I thank you
very much for your
beautiful kisses I wish
I could keep you with
me

Solong now
honey I love
you very
much

good night
its about 8PM its
to dark I can't
see so good

I love you
very much