Capt. P.M. Stevens RAFA
1st TAE Regt RAFA
BNAF 7th Feb 23.

My dear Chaps.

For my album it will not mean much much to you, but everything to me.

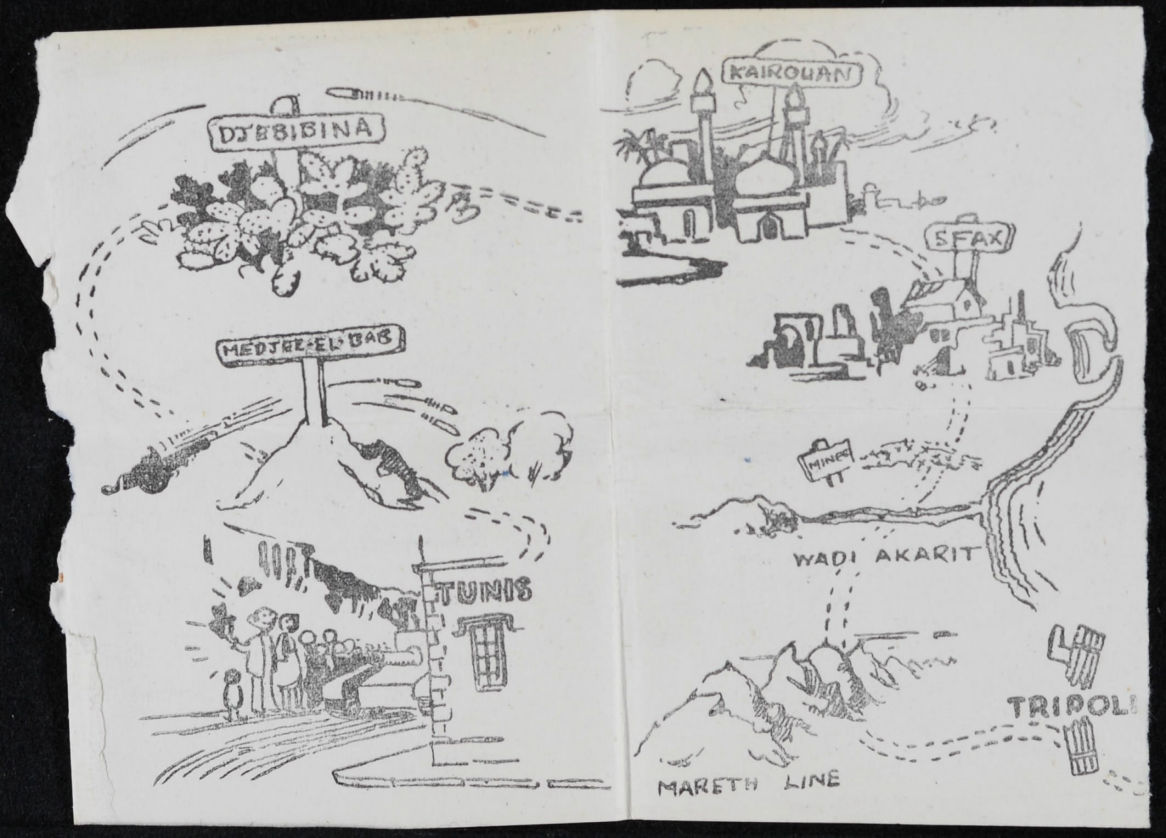
I had dinner last night with the 'lady of the farm' we had a terrific meal and tons of real fresh butter after 4 years of margarine. I noticed a big difference.

I dispatched to-day a wooden packet containing two brass ash-trays (one for daddies desk at 146 and one for mummies desk at Holmwood) made by P.O.W (Italian) from shell cases with our mascot on them.

No new Colonel yet but I expect he's on his way.

love

Edwin.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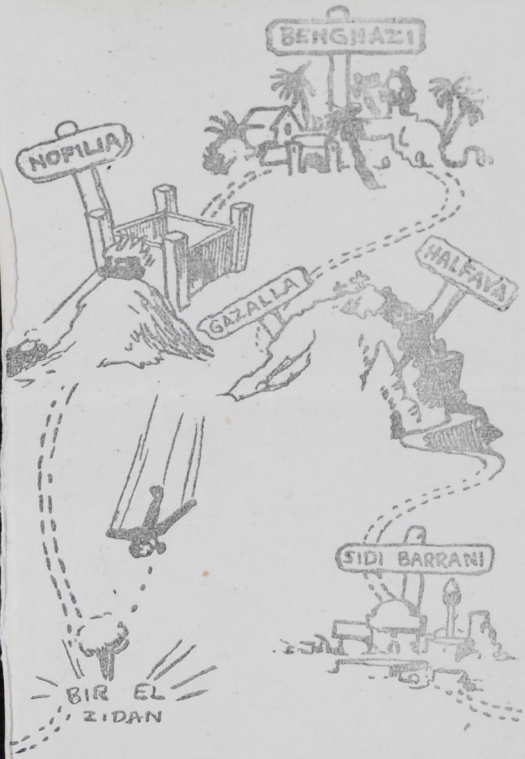
MEDJEZ-EL-BAB
TUNIS
KAIROUAN
SFAX
MINES
WADI AKARIT
TRIPOLI
MARETH LINE


BENGHAZI
NOFILIA
GAZALLA
HALFAYA
SIDI BARRANI
BIR EL ZIDAN


KHATATBA
RUWEISAT RIDGE
ALAMEIN
HIMEIMAT

Capt P.M. Stevens RHA
H.Q. I. BRIT. ARM. Division
BNAF 7 Feb. 24.

My darlings

Well as you see it has taken place, and I am now ADC to the General I am writting this letter infront of our huge fire in the mess at RHQ 11(RHA) just before departing. This I suppose is the end of one chapter, and the commencement of another. It's hard to leave a Regiment, such as this, with all your pals whom you have fought beside and in some cases they have died beside you. You become very attached to it there never will be another Regiment such as this one and my heart will always be with it. The day peace is declared the Colonel is taking me back if I want to come as a Captain to go home with the Regiment. Its funny you know the next six months will be for me the big moment in this war yet I am really quite unthrilled about it all.

I suppose the right way to look at it, is that new fresh Staff Officers are constantly required, and I should feel very proud, to be the only gunner officer recommended

by two brigadiers to fulfil a Staff Captain job on Division I want you to get it quite clear, this ADC will only be for 3 months and then I go as Staff Captain to the CRA I am only doing this ADC job temporarily, it's hard not to agree to the Colonel with after all he had done for me the past year

Well my darlings its a base wallah job from now for me

all love

Edwin.

Feb 24/44 Staff

BY AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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No. 1383

MRS [illegible] STEVENS

Holmwood

Kingston Hill

Surrey. England.

Thatcher

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

ON HIS

STEN Enve
EN by cut

(Lablest)

I am afraid security does not permit me to tell the Generals name but Raymond should be able to find out about it all in Blighty. I have my own room, next to the Generals, electric light, carpets, curtains furniture, wall-papers, a slumber down bed, sheets, and my own bath-room. In fact for the first time for 2 years I am going to live in real comfort with extra hours.

I have my own staff-car a small humber snipe, rather like my rover.

In fact tons of frills of every sort

I would much rather you said nothing about my new job to either Brown school or the Journal those things very often do harm.

All love Edwin

I feel terrific!!

Feb 28/44

AIR MAIL

BY AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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FIELD POST OFFICE 45 POSTAGE & REVENUE 3d

MRS C N STEVENS
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ENGLAND

PASSED BY CENSOR 970

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MAJESTY'S SE
RVICE.

Envelope
Fold square
ope by gumming this Label
ting Label instead of tearin

Capt P.M. Stevens RHA
H.Q. 1st Brit. Armd. DIV.
BNAF. Feb. 28.

My darlings

We have had a considerable amount of snow on the mountains in the past week. There is quite enough for skiing but its too cold up there for me. I would rather spend an afternoon infront of the fire my bloods abit thin these days. Fancy Ray Grenbar being home, if any person deserved less to go home its him however when I come home it will either be with the Division my old Regiment or the General. Your mail is still arriving as regularly as it did had done most of the time I have been abroad. One of your last letters posted on Feb 16 arrived here on the 21st. I am so very pleased to hear that you are getting that Swan material made into a dress it ought to look lovely on you. Well my dear I received daddies letter of the 19th to-day with all your congratulations on my new appointment I am very pleased to hear that you approve of it all. I wasn't quite certain what you would think about it all. It doesn't really thrill me an awful lot as you know its all the Army and I am only really waiting for this war to end before I really commence my life.

Capt. P. M. Stevens RHA
HQ 1st Brit. Armd. Division
BNAF March 2.

My dears.

If I don't put on weight doing this job I never will. The food is simply terrific the best since I left Holmwood and I am always riding about in the Generals cars. I am getting to know my six Colonels slowly but surely. I know the General far better already he's a grand chap. very natural and pleasant. It's only a matter of time before I have them all in my pocket and eating out of my hand. Will you please send me one of those blue bendable thin diarys they have got blue sheets in them I want a pocket size you simply cannot get anysort of diary out here and it is essential that I possess one.

I only wish I could tell you something I hear in this next but security plus my position naturally forbids it. I continually meet most interesting men and we have the most interesting chats to dinner at night we're having Jumbo Wilson one of these nights. It's all a change you know and otherwise than all the reasons I have mentioned already it's just what was needed to repair my state of health to finally recuperate back to the state I was at Watford and I am very nearly that state of health now.

I spent the whole day in the town the other day in the General's car a "Delage" 32 hp looking around all the junk

yards for tyres. I had a most enjoyable restful day, what a change to what I have done out here the last few years.

I am going to a dance with the General this week-end it ought to be good fun.

Well my darlings I feel terrific look terrific I hope you are all the same

all love

Edwin.

(Lablest)

March 2/44 AIR MAIL

BY AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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MRS E.N. STEVENS.
Holmwood
Kingston Hill
Surrey.

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ON HIS M

FASTEN Envelope

OPEN by cutting

Capt. P.M. Stevens. RHA
H.Q. 1st Brit. Armd. Division
Mar 5. BNAF

My darlings.

My life becomes H alot
cushier these days, pretty
regular hours. Up at 7.0 o'clock
bed at 10.30. I wish you could
see me driving the General
in his big Hispano Suiza in the
town, you would really laugh!
I have now been with him
a week and we continue
to become close companions.
I wonder how I shall feel
in 3 months time. I should think
I shall have had all I want
of it by then and I can
go on the CRA's staff.

These raids worry me
whenever I hear that they
have taken place. Do take
all the necessary precautions
we have all managed to
survive so far it can't be
alot longer. I think the
chances of Raymond being
allowed out of England
now to go to Italy as a
reinforcement very small even
though his major may try
and pull strings personally
I would still rather be in
the Second Front business. By the
way, as since 1st December we are
now being paid by England
and not by the Middle East
the Army Pay Office Agents
in England do not send

you each month a slip showing you how much they have paid into your bank, as did the Middle East, consequently I have no check to see that I get the right pay and allowance.

I wonder whether you could have a look for me once a month perhaps you could get the W. Bank to send me a statement out here every 3 months.

I am feeling fit and eat a tremendous amount.

Love Edwin

March 5/44

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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MRS C N STEVENS
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ENGLAND

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P M Stevens

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ERVICE.

cross Flap.
velope.

(51-1920)

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL
Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 200.4-1-P /rr

7 March 1944

SUBJECT: Travel Orders

TO : All Concerned

1. Following will proceed on or about 8 March 1944, from this station to Naples, Italy, in order to carry out an assigned mission:

Major Gen	A. GALLOWAY,	CBE, DSO, MC	(Br Army)
Capt	H. Stevens,	ADC	(Br Army)
Tpr	E. Hobley,		(Br Army)

2. Travel by military aircraft, rail and/or surface transportation is authorized.

By command of General WILSON:

R. E. LINES
1st Lt AGD
Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:

Ea. Concerned	3
Dep Mil Secy	1
G-1 (Br)	1
G-4 M & Tn (Air)	3
AG Records	1
AG 201 File	3

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Capt P.M. Stevens RHA
HQ 1st Brit Aimd Div BMAF
March 13.

My darlings.

I wish I had more time just now to write you about my present doings and security was not so strict but both these difficulties make things hard. All I can tell you is that on Tuesday I flew from North Africa with my boss to Italy where we are remaining for several weeks doing a most important temporary job. I spent a day yesterday in a big town where daddy and I once stayed at a beautiful hotel called the Excelsior on the front which is now no longer a bomb having written it off. The old mountain is still spouting. I visited Derek with it yesterday I was able very easily in my present position to locate him and we had a long very amusing talk. He looks alot fitter, has done really well and has got a mention in despatches. I heard unofficially that he has continuously been out every night with his men clearing the mines in all types of weather even though the whole place here is covered in deadly mines of all sorts, so that all sounds good for him doesn't it. I also visited Dick Brunt what a real friend he is it sounds as Podge would say "soppy" but he was so surprised to see me that he nearly

burst into tears.

From my window I can see the Monastery and surrounding hills. No one realizes unless they are actually here what effect weather makes on operations here. I take back all I said about the Americans too! They have done simply magnificently! What an interesting job this is, for the first time I am seeing the really big picture, he tells me everything and I go everywhere with him.

I see all the big wigs daily. General Freyberg spoke to me yesterday for 5 minutes.

all love

Edwin.

51-6818 (2)

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

March 13/44

POSTAGE REVENUE 3d

MRS. C. N. STEVENS
Holmwood
Kingstow Hill
Surrey
ENGLAND.

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Army Form W 3077

First fold here

Second fold here

To open cut here

To open cut here

Capt P.M. Stevens RHA
March 17. HQ 1 Brit Armd. Div. BNAF.

My darling!

The last four days have been really glorious over here typical clear blue skies and wonderful views. It will take this country a hundred years to recover from the effect of this war some of its towns and villages will never be rebuilt but just left to rot. Although at times I feel sorry for some of the results of this war on the people, the old and the young, they really deserve all they get I only hope as much damage and as much misery will be created within Germany, otherwise they will soon recover rearm and prepare for the next war. As I write this letter about fifty mules are being led loaded with supplies towards the front they have played a most valuable part so far over in this country. At present I am sleeping in a once beautiful house now the roof and first floor are no longer and I sleep in the ground room with the ceiling at my feet which incidentally keeps out the rain. This town is a typical example of the result of war, first it was bombed by hundreds of our bombers then the Germans blew off all the roofs of all the buildings then it was shelled for days by us, and afterwards by the Boche. Now not a single roof remains only a few have more than one wall left all the arches and monuments have been blown, there are no drains there is no water, the people have either remained or been killed in their houses and buried or left their homes for good. You remember those pictures in those old 'Sphere Books' at Pearsons of towns battered for days by guns in the last war well this is an exact duplicate of it, but worse!

I hold awful thoughts in my mind of what France will look like after the future big battle. Thank God there is a narrow strip of water between you and our foes.

I do a considerable amount of walking and climbing the result to my physical fitness is altogether satisfactory I climbed two mountains 4, two days each over 3000 feet high with snow on their peaks!!!

My love to all

Edwin xxx

March 17/44

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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MRS C N STEVENS
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KINGSTON HILL
SURREY
ENGLAND

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ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

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OPEN by cutting Label instead of tearing Envelope.

(52-5537)

Capt. P.M. Stewart R.H.A
H.Q.1 Brit. Armd. Div
BWAF. March 18.

My darlings.

So pleased to receive your letters and those delightful snaps of my home. They make me realize that I have now been away from home about 2 years a long time, but I really feel that the time to come home is when we are in the final stages of this War. (Which pray God will not be very long now) Please thank Annette, Molly, and Lady Evans for all their sweet letters but it is quite impossible to write them at present. Those Lamas you have just received I despatched from Malta in September God knows where they have been! There Raids worry me! Keep all of you undercover and in your dugouts. I could not possibly carry on out here with anyone of you injured in an air raid. Also sorry to hear about Mrs Bracken bridge, but "C'est la guerre" the only thing that really matters to us is the 'Slavin' family. The photographs are good and the old homestead has not changed at all. Your sweet letters with

the Snowdrop was greatly appreciated especially in the heart of Battle, as it was when it arrived.

I saw Derek again today he looks fit and has come back to DIV HQ where I am for a rest for seven days. I watched 1000 bombers drop over 2000 lbs of bombs on the monastery at CASSINO today, a sight I shall never forget

all love Edwin

March 18/44

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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POSTAGE REVENUE 3D

17 MAR 44

PASSED BY CENSOR No. 1357

MRs C N STEVENS

HOLMWOOD

KINGSTON HILL

SURREY

ENGLAND

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Capt. T. Thelwell RHA
H.Q. 1 B.A.F. Anti Div
BAAF. March 18.

My darlings.

I stood today alone with five Generals who were discussing amongst themselves the attack on Cassino it was the most illuminating discussion I have had for a very long time! I wish I could tell you who they all were all I can say is that they were the big five out here. The bombing of Cassino was quite fantastic and the sound simply deafening! It lasted for four hours, then a barrage for 1 hour and then fighter bombers, followed by a most stupendous barrage which I have ever seen in my life. All the 4 hrs the bombers dropped their eggs there was not one Jerry fighter or any Flak. Flak at all.

I spend my time

actively with the Goc accompanying him to all his conferences all his Recces and sight seeing tours. He discusses everything with me and makes the job thoroughly interesting.

I am feeling much fitter the mountain air does me lots more good than North Africa.

XXX

All love Edwina

March 18/44

AIR MAIL

BY AIR MAIL

LETTER CARD

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17 MAR 44

MRS C N STEVENS

HOLMWOOD

KINGSTON HILL

SURREY

England

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MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

(Lablest)

HQ. 1. Brit. Armd. Div.
BNAF. March. 18.

my darlings

Its a really cold day to-day as I write this letter in my blitzed house the wind is whistling round the corner, and I wish I was home with you sitting altogether infront of the fire in the lounge however I feel we are in the last lap now. Those photographs made me realize that I have really been abroad quite a long time now it was awfully nice to see everything looking so ship shape and orderley.

I see alot of Desk these days he's at present having a slight rest back with me at main HQ. My views about him will never change I still do not like him and having paid my duty visit to him, shall not bother myself anymore about him. (He's a queer chap) I have been having some quite exciting times the last week, with the General up the front we've been sniped shelled and strafed in a small way. But you know its nice to feel that you are doing something again towards the war effort times flies fastin too I am getting very tired of rotting in North Africa. I shall be very interested to hear what sort of a job Ray Grumbar gets! I am afraid he is not a successful soldier. I bought 5lbs of sugared almonds to-day, and am already half-way through them they are really good. I also managed to pick up 2 pairs of silk stockings which I shall duly despatch later

The battle rages on in our favour; in this sector he has his finest troops in Italy against us naturally so have we against him. A German P.W. stated yesterday that he did not believe when told by the interrogating officer that Berlin had been bombed alot during the past months and he also did not believe that Russia had broken through to the Brig. However he like all the rest here talked alot and generally they feel that they can never now win the war.

I went and visited Didi Brucke again last night, he rather feels the same as me that its someone else's turn and that he would like a long rest too!

Well my darling cheer up we are pushing them back nothing they possess can stop us all now. Edwin xxx.

Ap 18/44

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL
LETTER CARD

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MRS. C.N. STEVENS
HOLMWOOD
KINGSTON HILL
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ENGLAND

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Y'S SERVICE.

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(Labtest)

(61-1920)

Capt. P.M. Stewart RHA
March 18. HQ 1 Brit Armd Div. BMAF

My dear Raymond

I felt as though you deserved a letter tonight I know. I have sat with you for a long time. What's going on. You have been very quiet the last six weeks!!!

I saw Derek yesterday he sends his love looks fit and I think is enjoying the life.

I wish I could be a little more sensible and tell you a few things (I am in the same round as Derek) but life is too short.

This is a tremendous battle German Parachutists [illegible] offer was to the [illegible] have been [illegible] but there is [illegible] left now.

The village was a mass of strong-points each strong-point had deep cellars where they all sheltered whilst being bombed or shelled. They are all trained snipers and there were a number of them everywhere all [illegible] supporting. They have now a new bullet which when it strikes the ground emits a large puff smoke very easily seen so they do not waste many bullets and make many kills. About ½ hour ago 20 M.E. 109's came out of the sun to dive-bomb and strafe our forward troops but they have to choose the time carefully otherwise they meet our patrols.

The wind is fairly whistling round my bivi tonight I feel sorry for the P.B.I this evening that

I have temporarily got a little 'Gurka' batman he's terrific I call him by his initial 'M.B' I learn two of his words a day and he learns four English words

I watched 600 bombers drop over 2500 tons of bombs the other day on a certain hill a most amazing sight

Well Ray

cheerio for now

Edwin

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AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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BRIGHTON AND HOVE 8 JAN 44

POSTAGE REVENUE 3½

HOME FORCES Disposal

Capt. R.H. Evans

81/9 Medium Regt RA

Depot & School Airborne Forces

c/o G.P.O.

Bletchley

WHEN FOLDED THE LE... MUST CONF... SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ... MAY BE WRITTEN

Capt. C.M. Stewart RHA
HQ 1 Brit Armd Div
BNAF March 25

My darling

The last few days the weather has been truly wonderful as a result the ground is drying up. all of which help operations. The Boche in Cassino are just about the most determined I have ever met. For days now we have had Boche in defended buildings surrounded they have lost half of their comrades, got no communication with the outside world, no orders no food little water and no idea what is happening, yet still they fight on. Mind you we have captured quite a few prisoned but these Paratroop boys of course are the ideal chaps defending Cassino. This is what they have been trained for individual fighting, and they really know how to do it.

I am very fit eating like a horse, sleeping long hours and generally enjoying myself. You remember that awful chap Major Sargeant, well he is out here near where I am now, he knows I am here, but I do not intend to worry myself about him at all, or visit him. He's very small fry compared with the company I am with now.

The guns are silent at this moment it gets a little tiresome at times the whole place shakes, very often lumps of plaster fall down on you etc.

Well my dear everything A1. here I hope it is the same with you.

Love

Edwin

March 20/44

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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No. 21 MAR

MRS C N STEVENS

HOLMWOOD

KINGSTON HILL

SURREY

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E. M. Stevens

ENGLAND

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N HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

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(51-1920)

Capt. P.M. Stevens. R.H.A
H.Q. 1. Brit. Armd. Div.
BNAF. March. 30.

My darlings.

Well I am once again back home after two of the most interesting weeks I have ever spent anywhere. Before we left Italy we spent 24hours with General Alexander and I got to know him quite well. I had dinner yesterday with the Commander in chief of the whole show out here I have now spoken with practically every General there is out here, certainly all the important chaps. We are going back again later I really enjoy it I am starting to get very tired of N. Africa. I never imagined we would be here so long. The C.R.A had a talk with me yesterday re my future as to whether I wanted to be Staff Captain 1.O or go back to the Regiment as Technical Adjutant I told him I would rather wait and decide in two months time so much can happen in that period. I despatched 2pairs of silk stockings to day ones I bought in Italy. I registered them so they should arrive safely in about a month time. I can't say how much I appreciate all you have done and are doing for me and for my

future. I can't thank you enough especially for that last credit you have put into my a/c. I only hope that I shall live up to your expectations of me on my return. I would much rather you put profit on yourselves and on your own comfort you two are quite irreplaceable and no money can ever replace you, I want many more years to be in your company never mind about the cash.

all love Edwin

Love & Kisses PATSY

Mauea 30/44

AIR MAIL

BY AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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MRS C N STEVENS

HOLMWOOD

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SURREY

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My Poor Patsy
has been reported
to CAIRO and is back
with me now

(51-1920)

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

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Capt. P.M. Pleydell. RHA
April 5. H.Q. 1. Brit. Armd. Div. BMAF.

My darlings

Well, once more I am back in the land of the arabs how tired I am of N. Africa, I have had a long enough rest here now, to grow several more feet.

Everyone it remarking here on how well I look now especially after my last two weeks at Cassino.

Daddy as usual continues to think of others and has put my credit at the bank up in a big way, I am very grateful for all that you all are continually doing for me and my future.

It's very hard not to write pages about certain evolutions taking place in the family at present however it will wait. I should certainly have liked to have been There, over the proceedings.

I am completley settled now know all about me, and like them all. They all call me 'Steve' including the General who really treats me as his brother. It really is a most proud position to feel that you are so trusted and known to be efficient. There is nothing in the job its easy, not nearly so difficult as being Technical adjutant for the 11th however by 3 months I shall have had enough and will want to

got into my new job.

Mary oyster is back from CAIRO at good as new. Now as regards my boss, he is an absolute pattern of my old friend Brigadier Goodlady. Very human terribly friendly, very personal about everything to me, and above all a most terrific brain and very modern outlook. His niece is a W.R.N.S officer she came to dance here the other night we had a tremendous party finally I took her home in one of his American staff cars at 1-30 in the morning. And so it goes on, I do not think it will be long before I write that calling him Uncle or by his christian name.

Love Edwin

Is it official yet!

Ap. 5/44

AIR MAIL

BY AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

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MRS .C.N. STEVENS
HOLMWOOD
KINGSTON HILL
SURREY

ENGLAND

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(Lablest) (51-1920)

Capt. P. M. Stevens RHA
H.Q. 1. Brit. Armd Division.
April. 14. BNAF

My darlings.

Firstly I must shower my congratulations on old Ray, on having found his "fairy princess" she sounds a most delightful girl and already seems to have Ray under control which is a good thing. She seems to have a good head which is so necessary in this world. It all sounds very satisfactory, and it has made me feel here very happy to know that these things are proceeding so soundly, smoothly, and with complete concord. I will write to Patty if you will let me have her address. Both diaries have arrived safely, well before time and at usual are just what I asked for or at the doctor ordered. Thank you again for the trouble you have taken over the matter.

I went into the town to-day, much against my will and posed for some photographs so in about a week, they will be on their way. You will see a big change between the last one I sent you from Syracuse in Sicily, which was taken one day after I had been discharged from hospital after Malaria!

The Holmwood sacks are perfectly delightful. You could not have sent anything which could have possibly been more appreciated by me. It looks

lovelier than ever and I am longing to get back to it and you. Has the parcel with the pyjamas arrived yet!

Yes, I saw Vesuvius from the ground and from the air the dust covered everything for miles about 2 feet deep, it was one of those things which I suppose ought to thrill you, but nothing I am afraid now gives me a thrill out here, there is only one thing that would and you know what that is!!

I will keep an eye out for Lt. Kneehaw and next time I go over to Haly I will go and see him.

Thank You for all your lovely letters Edwin.

AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

Ap 14/44.

MRS C N STEVENS
HOLMWOOD
KINGSTON HILL
SYRREY

ENGLAND

P. M. Clevedon

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

(Lablest)

(51-1920)

Capt P. M. Clerke RWA
H.Q. 1. Brit. Arms Div.
RWAF. April 14.

My darlings.

Please thank the girls and gardener for their lovely letters most gratefully received as always, but owing to an extremely busy life just now I have had to cut down my letter writing, to all except you.

What a delightful ring nice taste, and very chic the girl certainly ought to be proud of it. I would!

How I am looking forward to the after the war years with you and daddy and however, wherever we may go, we are going to have a most terrifically happy household Gosh! roll on the war!

Poor old Phil always seems to be getting into trouble now its awful in Alexandria there must be some attraction about here for trouble.

Basil White has whatever is the situation now! been more than kind to me whilst in CAIRO, especially when I knew no one, always prepared to do anything for me anytime.

War does unfortunately break up family life, and more often when wives and husbands are separated thousands of miles

over a long period created trouble. I have dealt with so many cases similar to Basil's in my battery (re the way that I really do sympathize with both parties and can understand certain reasons for certain things!

Just going to a little do on at the Lux Bar

I went out yesterday with a very nice new officer Captain, we both wore civies my long grey trousers and jacket I bought at Simpsons went to a flat with a party and I cooked a big egg omelette, which was a complete success, and danced good it was fun first time I have worn civvy clothes since Watford time!

Love Edna XXX

AIR MAIL

BY AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

POSTAGE 3d

MRS C N STEVENS
HOLMWOOD
KINGSTON HILL
SURREY

ENGLAND

April 4/44

PASSED BY CENSOR 870

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

Capt. P. M. Hewitt - RHA
H.Q. 1. Brit. Armd. Division
BNAF April 19.

My dear Ray.

You old buzzard the things I have been hearing about you lately are quite unbelievable anyway let me be the last but perhaps the sincerest in wishing you and your fair friend my heartiest congratulations, and I pray to God that it will not be long before you are together living in peaceful times as man and wife

She sounds very nice Very sweet and from what I hear from a lot of source very capable with a well balanced head, a nice little figure, and a sweet little face.

I have already located her brother and when I next go over on the next visit I will visit him.

Your new job doesn't sound as though it had an awful lot of future in it and I recommend a quick change of employment. You must remember that you are now practically a married man and that you owe it to your future wife to look after yourself and take just the normal chances what we all stand in battle.

The more fighting one does the more you realize that HERO'S are few and far between do not last long, and really are not wanted what is wanted are officers and men who will

not subject themselves to more
risks and danger than possible
thus losing to fight another day
as experienced officers and men

As I have said before
you have had your share
so can now take things easier
it is quite fantastic the number
of healthy efficient people who never
have had nor ever will have any
intention of going within 100 miles of
any front

By all means Ray do your
bit but in this war you must
look after yourself because no
one else cares at all whether
in the army you are alive
or dead. (except as regards your Kit)
Once more all
my wishes for you from
Bro

(2) 81894-15

First fold here

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

April 15.

Please forward.

Capt. P. H. Stevens
Holmwood
Kingston Hill
Surrey
ENGLAND.

POSTAGE REVENUE 3½

PASSED BY CENSOR NO. Plattenin.

Army Form W.3077.

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Capt. P.M. Stevens. R.H.A.
H.Q. 1. Brit. Armd Div.
BNAF. April. 18.

My darlings.

Its quite stunning to try to imagine that Raymond has found a girl who loves her as much as he loves her, and who seems to have such an effect upon him; what more could you possibly desire!

Yes! poor Jonny Simpson was killed the day I left CASSINO in the exact place where a C.O whom we were discussing the Battle was shot by a sniper in the shoulder. He had only been doing O.P work for the first time it was his second day up!
I know Peter Reid fearly well he had not been in the Regiment very long, and of course is a very junior officer. He looks nice and as though he was from a good family.

I went down for 3 days leave over the weekend with another Staff officer in my staff car to Bou-saada about 200 miles south in the desert there is a most lovely comfortable hotel their good food nice beds sheets and your own bathroom. It was tremendous fun, and a nice change.

I am afraid your information on my boss is not correct, he is a duplicate of Col. Goodbody, a much more human, kinder boss you could never possibly meet, and now we're really the best of friends, and know each other

extremely well.

I have now done this job for 2 months and one week the period expired = 3 weeks time, and the General asked me what I wanted to do I told him that I wished to return to either the Regiment or go on the C.R.A.'s staff.

As much as I enjoy the job and even though one has the most astonishing advantages the job is rather a strain one is really on duty from dawn to dusk you have to be so careful what you say to different people to discreet and one has to deal with sometimes very difficult people. not that worries me, but its best to look ahead and get yourself in two a <u>decent</u> job at a time when jobs are available, well before a battle

love Edwin

51-6818 (2)

First fold here

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

Ap 18/44.



MRS. E.N. STEVENS
Holmwood
Kingston Hill
Surrey.

Army Form W.3077.

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To open cut here

To open cut here

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

FASTEN Envelope by gumming this Label across Flap.
OPEN by cutting Label instead of tearing Envelope.

I am going to CAIRO on a course (photographs) for One months time will you please get Westminster Bank to send Barclays Bank Heliopolis permission to cash cheques up to £80 max only if I require it

(Lablest) (51-1920)

Capt. P. M. Stewart RHA
1 Brit. Armd Div
BAAF April 19

My dear

Attached scraps of paper to be added to my collection when I was in Italy with the General, he was commanding for 3 weeks a certain division (very famous) I had a Gurka batman and he tried to teach me his language attached sheets show how amusing it all was!

Love

Edwina

Capt P.M. Stewart. RHA
H.Q. 1. Brit. Armd Div
B.N.A.F. April 19.

My darling.

The situation is a follows. the C.R.A wants me as a Staff Captain chief Liaison officer on his H.Q.R.A and the new Colonel of the 11th Regt plus 2 i/c wants me back as Captain Technical Adjutant. It really makes me feel quite proud to realize that people want me for what I am and want me because they think I am efficient.

I do not know what will actually happen there is no use worrying about it I am going to give the C.R.A my own decision in one months time. But whatever happens I shall not be doing this job after the 3 months period is up its been marvellous experience but quite frankly, I want to get back to a real main job again now. Anyway that's the position its either of those jobs but undecided at present. You may remember that Technical Adjutant was the job I did before and enjoyed so much. The difference being now that Quentin Drage my best friend is now Adjutant and so we would once again be able

a big fight going on now about it I am going to give the C.R.A my own decision in one months time. But whatever happens I shall not be doing this job after the 3 months period is up its been marvellous experience but quite frankly, I want to get back to a real main job again now. Anyway that's the position its either of those jobs but undecided at present. You may remember that Technical Adjutant was the job I did before and enjoyed so much. The difference being now that Quentin Drage my best friend is now Adjutant and so we would once again be able

To work hard in glove!
I am just off to pick up
Lord Gort and bring him out
here to lunch and to see
the 11(Hnc) as you know he is
our Colonel Comdant so I expect
he will have a long chat
with me in the car on the
way out, its quite a honour
and its all very amusing
Tomorrow the whole
proceedings will be repeated
but this time I go and fetch
the C.in.C. & the Inspecting.
I will tell you more
about it all after it
has happened I am sorry
about my mail but what
I can guarantee is that it
will improve now and even more
when I get the new job.

Love Edwin

51-6818 (2)

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

April 19.





MRS C. N. STEVENS
Holmwood
Kingston Hill
Surrey.
ENGLAND

Army Form W.3077.

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To open cut here

Capt. P.M. Stewart. RHA
HQ. 1. Brit. Arno. Div
April 22.

My darling

Well, the last three days have really been quite unbelievable. I went to escort Lord Gort out to the 11(HHC) alone and he insisted on coming in my old car alone. I took him 30 miles out to the 11(HHC) and back to his Head-Quarters. We talked together about all sorts of things in all 1½ hours. Finally, when he was shaking my hand on leaving, he invited me to stay with him in Malta! I consider it quite an honour, firstly because I was sent really at HHC to meet him and to act as his companion as you know he is our new Colonel Comdt and this was his first visit to the Regiment! Next day the whole procedure was repeated with Jumbo Wilson, except that he just thanked me for all my trouble. Finally yesterday I was again summoned for Duncan Sandys the P.M.'s son in law and the General Duncan and myself went all round the area inspecting various weapons etc. Last night I organised a reception at the Generals mess, it was a terrific do - champagne turkey chicken, pork, salads, jellies, chocolate cakes, cup, asparagus, ices quite frozen we had a black dance band and a most select collection of girls, you could have ever imagined. They were all quite charming

and the same type as the Evansis Royds etc; infact it was all together tomuch like peace

However its my first like that for 2years now.

Now you can once and for all dismiss any fears you had at regards my safety. Whether I'm Staff Capt Liaison Officer or Technical Adjutant compared with O.P in the Armoured Division it too safe. However as I said before I'm having my rest just now. the other people keep I feel better now than I have ever felt since landing after the voyage around the cape photographs of me are on their way. love Edwin

51-6818 (2)

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

Apr 27/44.

POSTAGE & REVENUE 3d

FIELD POST OFFICE

PASSED BY CENSOR NZ 870

MRS. C.N. STEVENS
Holmwood
Kingston Hill
Surrey.
ENGLAND

Army Form W.3077

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Second fold here

To open cut here

To open cut here

Capt. P.M. Stevens. RHA
HQ. I. Brit. Armd. Div.
BNAF April. 22

My dear Dad.

Yes you are right. I am going to find it quite difficult to leave the General: when you act as real companions solidly for 3 months one either becomes very friendly or one does not enjoy the job. However I only ever took this job on for 3 months and do not mean to do it any longer whatever the circumstances.

You see if you do this job too long. You get out of circulation: you forget all your gunnery, and people are not prepared to hold open their vacancies for you too long! In other words you commence slowly to slide from the top of the hill to the bottom an example of this is Ray Glenton although actually he never really was at any top. as he never knew any gunnery. Now this is my plan. During the next three weeks I shall be relieved from this job with several days of leave I go on a course to CAIRO on aerial photographs, come back and go on the CRA's staff as chief Liaison officer. but it

will only be a matter of weeks before I get the Intelligence Officer job which is what I want at present it is filled the CRA told me that he was trying to push this Captain out so that I could do the job. The new C.O of the 11/HAC will take me back as a Captain (as Technical Adjutant) whenever the CRA will release me. Frankly I think I am on a good wicket. It will be another change, a much quieter job just as interesting, a gunners job and there is always the Regiment to go back to!

I am sure you must agree

Please get Westminster Bank to write authority for cashing my cheques as CASH as quickly as possible

love Edwin

51-6818 (2)

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

POSTAGE REVENUE 3D

Capt. A.H. Stevens. M.C.
146 Victoria Street
S.W.1

P.M. Thereof

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Army Form W.3077.

Second fold here

To open cut here

To open cut here

Capt. P.M. Stevens RHA
HQ. 1. Brit. Armd. Div. BNAF
April 28.

My darlings

It's certain now that I go to CAIRO before the May 15th for this course so that's something once again really to look forward too.

I had a very happy evening the other night I changed for the first time into 'civvis' (the ones I bought out from home) and we went to a most lovely country house actually it was very 'moorish' where I cooked a big omelette I used 18 eggs. and a tin of 'Spam' it was a tremendous success and we ate it sitting on big 'arab' mushy-dumpty's It was a most civilised evening, two very French girls who left Paris about 18 months ago. spoke excellent English and were most affable! Particulary one called Christian Lattaur she had now taken priority over the W.R.N.S but do not worry its nothing serious, just a wartime part, but she really is a delightful girl. Very pretty, laughs all the time does not require to be entertained at all knows all the best people

in France!

I saw a very good film yesterday I think you saw it about a year ago "In which we serve" I did enjoy it. I have not heard much about your visit to the films lately are you not going or what.

Well my dear I could not feel better

all my love

Louie.

BY AIR MAIL LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

POSTAGE REVENUE 3d

CENSOR 5

Ap 28/44

MRS. C. N. STEVENS

Holmwood

Kingston Hill

Surrey.

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

(51-1920)

Opened by Censor

Capt. Ph. Stevens RHA
H.Q.R.A. 1. Brit. Armd Div
BWAF April 28.

My darling!

My boss said good-bye to me to-day and left on a visit to 'Blighty'. He will either write you or ring you or maybe if time permits visit you. Please don't ask him too many wedding questions and I know that you will be discreet about our affairs. As you see I have a new address now, I actually go to this Head-Quarters on the 1st April. On the 3rd I go to CAIRO, I'm having two weeks leave in Alexandria before the course which starts on May 15.

So the day before I leave by plane I will drop you a line confirming that I have gone and you can send my mail up to the end of May to the

CARLTON HOTEL
CAIRO

however all this I will confirm when I write to you on Tuesday.

I am thoroughly looking forward to my new job and am going to work very hard on my course.

This will of course mean that I shall be seeing Phil, as it is

not far from Alexandria where he is stationed.

Will you let me know what you would like me to send you from CAIRO some more of those food parcels or some more stockings and undies, whatever you say about not sending anything will not alter my mind

all love

Edna

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL
LETTER CARD

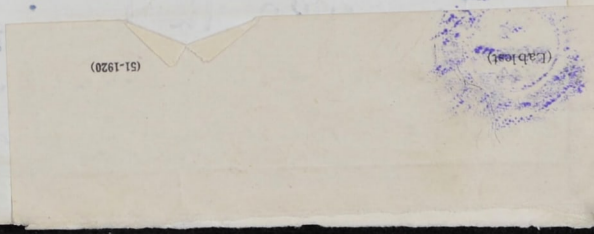
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



ap 28/44

MRS. E. N. STEVENS
Holmwood
Kingston Hill
Surrey.

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN



Capt. P.M. Stevens RHA
H.Q.R.A.1. Brit. Armd. Div.
BNAF May. 1

My dear

Please note new address and inform Newsagent so that my weekly papers will continue to arrive safely at my correct location! I have had a bit of trouble as you can see with my finger. but - its nearly alright now! I bruised it and it went septic under the nail, so I had to go into hospital and have it operated on, have the nail removed and all the pust taken out under a local. Anyway I am back now at the General mess with my writing finger all bandaged up, waiting for my plane to CAIRO I go on either the 3rd or the 4th. I shall go to Alexandria and have a weeks leave at that lovely hotel by the sea where I had such a good time before, and then back to CAIRO

for this 3 weeks or months
course. I shall definitely
see Phil as it is only
a matter of about ¾ of an hour
to his camp from Alexandria!
Has Wadmutter back
wired permission to
Barclays Bank Heliopolis
to cash my cheque up
to £100 if necessary!
I ought to be at the
Carlton Hotel CAIRO
by Friday, so you can
send Ahlis ad wires only
to that address up to MAY 21
after that to the above address. Cheerio

BY AIR MAIL

AIR MAIL
LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

POSTAGE REVENUE 3D

May 1/44.

MRS. C.N. STEVENS
Holmwood
Kingston Hill
Surrey.
ENGLAND

WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

FASTEN Envelope by gumming this Label across Flap.
Instead of tearing Envelope.

(Lablest)

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

File : AG 200.4-1-F (Hr) /rr 2 May 1944

SUBJECT : Travel Orders

To : Capt. R.M. Stevens, 117219, 11 MAC, AA

1. You will proceed on the date and to the place (s) indicated below on temporary duty in order to carry out an assigned mission and upon completion return to proper station :

To Cairo, Egypt, on or about 6 May 1944.

2. Travel by military aircraft, rail and/or surface transportation is authorised.

By command of General WILSON :

R. E. LINES.
Capt Ist Lt.A.G.D.
Asst. Adj. Gen.

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