

Mississippi State University

## Scholars Junction

---

Lieutenant Colonel Rollin S. Armstrong  
Collection

Manuscripts Division

---

9-10-1943

### Letter, Major Rollin S. Armstrong to His Wife, Rebecca Armstrong, September 10, 1943

Rollin S. Armstrong

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/mss-armstrong-papers>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Lt. Col. Rollin S. Armstrong Collection, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscripts Division at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Lieutenant Colonel Rollin S. Armstrong Collection by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact [scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com](mailto:scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com).



North Africa  
Sept. 10, 1943.

My darling —

I went in swimming in the Mediterranean the other day and it was certainly fine. While I was in swimming I ran into an officer who I worked with in St. Louis in 1930. In fact we lived together in the same room and worked for the same company. That was the first time I had seen him since 1930. The world isn't so large after all.

I had a letter from Mother yesterday which was written August 16, and said she had a letter from you and that you were getting along fine. So far I haven't received a letter from you — I know there must be some but they just haven't got to them yet. The handling of mail is quite a problem over here.

From time to time I will wire you money which I wish you would have deposited to my account at home. That money will be used in taking us a trip together whenever I return. My plan is that you and I will



take about a three weeks trip together  
somewhere.

Do you still have your car or  
did you sell it? When I get back  
to the states I also want to purchase  
a new car if possible. In the event  
you dispose of the car set that  
money for the purchase of a new one.  
I may give you some money the  
latter part of the month. There  
is not much to spend money here  
so it is of little value here to me.

Everyone you deal with here is  
either French or an Arab, and of course  
the prices on their articles are about  
ten times what they are worth.

It is remarkable ~~so~~ how some of  
these people have learned to speak  
some of the English language, and  
especially kids! Of course the Arabs are  
great beggars, and anything else you  
want to call them. Very small children  
beg for American cigarettes, and their  
favorite expression is "Joe give me  
a cigarette." A can of C<sup>o</sup>ratons is  
like a turkey dinner to them.  
The sanitation here is terrible, and  
filth and dirt is the worst I have  
ever seen anywhere. You have to  
be very careful as for as health conditions



are concerned.

I was talking to an Arab boy the other day who was 17 1/2 years old and he could speak English, French, Arab and Spanish. His French and Spanish he studied in school and the English he picked up by conversing with GI soldiers as he said. They call us GI soldiers, and he said he was going to join the GI army because that was the only army he liked.

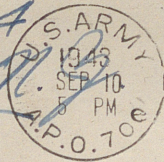
The Mohammedan religion fasts from Sept 2 to Oct 2 and during that time they do not eat or drink anything during the day, but at night they take their drinks and eat and have their food. Of course, wine is a big thing over here with them, and they drink that like water.

Darling I certainly hope this letter finds you getting along fine, and feeling swell. I miss you very much and love you with all my heart. I am yours always.

John

John and Coland said to be sure and tell you hello.

Major Kelly S. Quinlan 2-272101  
Apt 931<sup>NO</sup> FA Bn APO 464  
Postmaster, New York, N.Y.



Mrs. Kelly S. Quinlan  
319 Jefferson St.  
Lupelo  
Mississippi U.S.A.

Kelly S. Quinlan