



UNITED STATES ARMY

Sunday afternoon 4-2-44

Dear Alice and Everyone Else,

For the first time since I have been in the army I can start to write a letter and expect to finish it without any interruptions. I have just finished dinner, which consisted of roast pork, sweet potatoes, salad, dressing & gravy, hot biscuits, butter, coffee, ice cream, and canned pears. For breakfast this morning we had wheat cake, butter, syrup, oatmeal or corn-flakes, Toast and coffee. The food, generally speaking, is far better than I expected it would be. There is always plenty of butter, and meat is served either 2 or 3 times a day. Some of the food I have seen wasted here is really criminal. I worked on K.P. in the Officers Mess Hall last Friday; was awakened at 5:15 A.M. and started to work at 5:45, finishing at about 7:15 P.M. I am scheduled to



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fire guard duty tonight, I have to report to regimental headquarters at 1745 and that will be for 24 hours; 2 hours on and 4 hours off. The job consists of walking ~~in~~ around a certain area and watching for fires or other disorders. No smoking is permitted while on duty or talking to anyone except in the line of duty. I haven't done this particular job before, but just not being able to talk or smoke is excuse enough for the guys that are doing it to wear the long faces they usually do.

This writing looks like hell, I know, but I have no desk other than my bunk. I lay down, sit up, stand up in all different positions trying to get in a half comfortable writing position but haven't yet found one where I could write over four lines, without shifting.



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The barracks, or hutment as they call it here, in which my bunk is, is about 12×40 ft and sleeps 15 men in single bunks.

12:30 P.M. Monday

My writing was very rudely interrupted and I was unable to get back to it until now and I am going to cut this short because I want to go to bed directly after dawn tonight as my last two nights only totalled about 5 hours sleep. I caught a bad cold that kept me awake most of Saturday night and last night as well.

We started off our 17 weeks training period this A.M. with a bang, a brass band and a talk by the camp commander, ~~at~~ Major General. He talked awhile, then introduced several colonels, Lt. colonels, Majors, and Captains. Each speaker made some mention of how tough this training period is going to be. And if this



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morning workout was any criterion, they were all understatements. After the ceremonies we marched back to our company area, changed from our c.d. uniforms to fatigues, leggings, field jackets and helmet liners. The helmet liners incidentally, are the regular thing except when you go to war they slip a steel shell over the liner and you have the finished product. The liners are made of plastic. We have to wear them at all times during duty hours, that is until chow time in the evening. We marched over to the drill field and started things off by running in formation, double time, about a half-mile. Then we got 45 minutes of calisthenics which made those at the Y. look simple.

9:30 A. M. Tuesday

Well, as I said before, this army is unpredictable, this morning



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I had breakfast in bed. I caught a cold last Saturday and coughed all Saturday night, all day Sunday, and Monday. It probably wouldn't have been so bad if I hadn't been on Fire Guard Duty Sunday night. Any how, I reported to the dispensary at 6:30 last ^{night} with a temperature of 100.0 and they gave me a ride in one those brown ambulances and here I am in the hospital. The major at the ~~hospital~~ dispensary said I would be here from 4 to 6 days. But now I am closing this time for sure, as I want to mail this now in case I should be assigned to some detail work.

Love,
Johnny