

Aboard Train, Enroute to God
Knows Where.

Tues, 9:45 P.M.

March 16-1943

Dear Mom,

Well, I'm on my way at last !!

I phoned you last night, as you know; this morn we were awakened at two A.M. and told we were going to be shipped. At 5:00 A.M. we were rolled out and packed our barracks bags. But we traipsed around in the rain all day, and only boarded the train at Upton at 6:15 P.M. Penn Station was reached at 9 o'clock, and we pulled out of there at 9:25 P.M. Seems strange, my leaving just a day ahead of Dot. We don't know where we're going, but one of the fellows heard a Louie being told

that the dining car would be on
as far as Harrisburg, Pa. So
we figure we're going ~~to~~ West or
Central South.

Please don't mind the writing
but the damn train is swaying so
much its hard to write. We're
not permitted to mail these enroute
so I guess I'll finish this letter
by telling you where and when
we arrived at our destination.

I think that hereafter, if I'm
shipped any place, I'll just tel-
e-graph my address when I reach
my destination. So if you re-
ceive the telegram (which should
arrive before this letter), you'll
know where to write. However,
if I'm allowed to telegraph
my arrival before I know

my address, I'll just send
the name of the city or
camp. Then you'll have to
wait for an air-mail letter
for the address.

~~At any rate, when you write,
always include my Army
Serial Number (A. S. N.)
which is 12110488.
More later~~

P.P.S. don't put in my
A. S. N.

Later: Well, here we are at last!!

At 9:30 A.M. this St. Patrick's Day
morn we rolled across the North Carolina
border. And at 2:30 P.M. this afternoon,
17 hours after leaving New York, we
arrived at our destination. It is
Camp Craft, South Carolina, 6 miles

from Sparta'sburg. This is where Richie was, but is he here now? If he is, send me his address and I'll look him up.

This is an infantry unit, mom, and my training, which will take 13 weeks, begins next Monday. It doesn't look easy, but, please God, will all make it. After the training, I don't know what happens. But this is the Army, and you can never tell. If you write to Joe, give him my address.

In the first part of this letter I mentioned telegraphing. Well, I can't telegraph my arrival here, since the Telegraph office is out of bounds. I'm going to need a few things, mom, so send me a carton of cigarettes \$5 or \$7, some white handkerchiefs, and I guess I could use my Vaseline hair tonic. The weather here is inclement, but I understand that that's unusual. Sometimes they don't have rain for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 months. So my hair is bound to get dry.

and sandy. Jay, mom, on second thought, hold off on that Vaseline Hair Tonic. I have to get my ~~head~~ hair cut, and I guess I won't need the tonic. But say, I can use some wood soled sandals for use in the shower, to prevent getting athlete's foot.

Say. I just got back from from Chow (spaghetti & meat balls, boiled carrots, celery, tea with lemon, bread, butter & peanut butter) and, **GOOD NEWS!!**

When I came in here I thought that I was stuck in the infantry for good. But now I find out that we merely get our basic training (13 wks.) here. Tomorrow we're to be reclassified, and then we find out where we go after we finish our basic training - Signal Corps, Chemical Warfare, Field or Coast Artillery, etc. So I'll let you know how I'm classified. Gosh

but I hope it's in something like.

By the way, right after I come in, I heard a fellow in the latrine say "Well, looks like they've got a good bunch of officers here. Smart fellows" - I may be presuming, but I think he means us college fellows. So maybe some of us will be going to O. C. S. when we finish our basic training.

From 5:30 P.M. Sat to 11:15 P.M.

Sunday and time is our own.

Well, mom, I'm going to close now. I want to go down to the P.K. and then write some letters. So I'll sign off, now. I'll write soon, probably tomorrow night. So be good & remember all your service sons & daughters in your prayers.

Love, as ever

Franks

P.S. I hear we have to hike up to 25 miles.
My poor feet!!

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3/4 inches paper
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