



CAMP CROFT
SOUTH CAROLINA

Sunday, Apr. 11
10:30 A.M.

Dear Mom and the Chief

Well, I got the two letters Friday that you & the Chief sent Wednesday. And yesterday a letter from Kate arrived. And I was glad you put the matter of my writing the way you did. It is slightly difficult at times to get off a letter every day. Friday, for instance we went on a 10 mile hike in the morning, then had 4 straight hours of dry shooting in the afternoon, and polished off the day by scrubbing down the whole damn barracks floor after supper chow. Then we had to clean our rifles and fix our foot lockers for Sat. inspection. After that I went to a free movie in the recreation Hall. Yesterday morning we had another 4 hrs. dry shooting, and in the afternoon, calisthenics, lecture on military sanitation & hygiene, and finally our weekly inspection. Everything was O.K. Last nite after chow I went to confession & then with some of the boys to a movie. It was "lights out" when we come back, so I didn't write last nite. This morning I went to the nine

o'clock Mass and rec'd Commission - my first time in the Army. Tues., Wed., & Thurs nite I managed to get to the 7 o'clock Mass. But next week I don't think I'll be able to do it. Reason: will be up on the rifle range firing away all day, and when we get back at night we'll have to clean our rifles first thing. So by the time I'm finished it will be too late for Mass. For the same reason, I probably won't be able to write much next week.

I understand that we're to be paid tomorrow. But because of cleaning the rifles, I won't be able to go into Spartanburg. I'll have to save the trip for next Sat. I guess. But the money will be welcome, at any rate, since I'm down to 75¢.

Right after confession last night I took a run up to the 35th B'n & looked up Ned Milledie. Had only a short talk with him 'cause he was going out. But, do you know, he's been here two weeks & fires the M.1 this week. We're here 4 weeks, & fire the M.1 this week, too. I guess that bears out what I was telling you about our being guinea pigs ~~used~~ for a new system which places emphasis on more thorough training. But that's for the better, not the worse.

As for my putting on weight on: I went down to the P.K. last week & weighed myself. With O.D.'s, a blouse & G.I. shoes, I showed 152 lbs. In ~~and~~ civilian life, fully dressed, I tipped only 142 or 144. If the extra 8 or 10 lbs is weight (which I hope it is), I can't see where I'm putting it on. But then, you never can



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tell where you're putting it on any how. But some of the fellows who've been here a long time have gained as much as 30 lbs. Keep hoping.

Do you know what's happened to Dot? I haven't received a letter from her for over a week. But perhaps I'm being too hasty. Maybe I'll get a letter in the afternoon mail.

No I guess not. The afternoon mail just came in (11:45 A.M.). No word from Dot. But your letter (Friday's) was delivered. Thanks for remembering the Poor Souls. Tell 'em to keep plugging at that Latin. The first year is the hardest.

It's good news that the Chief & Tom have been having their little set-tos regularly. But tell my pap & your brother that, as regards the Victory Gardens, seeing is believing, and I'll be looking forward to a couple of pictures of the results. So far the plans seem to be all perk and beer. But I wish them luck. I guess right now a victory garden would be mighty helpful to you civilians. As for us, ~~if~~ we have no food worries. The chow, & in particular the meat, continues to be plentiful. At other posts Camp Croft is known as the Country Club of the Infantry. So you can imagine what it's like here.

The weather for the past week has been rather hot. And it's going to get hotter. This morning, however, it was slightly chilly. But it'll warm up. When we arrived here we were all true "pale faces." But now we present strange appearances. Red or tanned faces ^{necks} and hands, and the rest of us all ~~all~~ lily white - like we were when we arrived. Unfortunately we have to keep our shirts on down here and our sleeves rolled down. Gosh, I wish the rest of me were as tanned as the back of my hands. They look like they were just dark brown with dirt. This Army life certainly does wonders for you. Got to bed last night at 11 o'clock and couldn't sleep any more after 7:30 this morning. Feels good to get up early. And I'd never ~~think~~ think of taking a nap during the day any more. You feel too lively - couldn't sleep!

Damn, sorry to hear about Touhey. She doesn't deserve a dirty break like that. Seems like you'll have busy Sundays with the visiting 3 Sisters. But for Lodd's sake, watch what you tell them about us! They may not be averse to blackmail, or at least a little kidding! And tell Eileen Moran not to eat so much ice cream. She has to watch her figure! Also, please ask them what's the attraction there now, after Joe and I have gone? When we were there they came over once in a blue moon, and so ^{they} were damn welcome when they came. Ined people, ~~women~~ women!!

Well, I've got to eat chow, write some letters, and get my stuff ready for the range tomorrow, so I'll say for the present.

Love, as ever
Frank.

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Free.



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