

Tues, 7/28/43

8:10 P.M.

Dear Mom,

Taking time off tonight to write you this long overdue letter. Rec'd the letter you wrote the 21st and Dad wrote 2 days ago. Her letter, I confess, wasn't too cheerful. The inactivity is getting her. The furlough will be good for her indeed.

Also got a letter yesterday from John Callon. In contrast to his previous letters, it was very solemn. In case you don't already know, he's been rejected by the Army - 4F. His eyes are very bad, and he has a fibrous tumor anchored in one nostril. He could take some cheering up. I'm afraid he takes the bad news rather badly. But he consoles me to my life here. Seems like he's always doing some good from somebody.

Your package arrived 2 days ago, Mom. The outside of it was in a helluva shape, but the stuff inside was in good shape. Thanks a lot for the cats. They keep us four here going. We're starved when we wake up in the morning, so we have a cracker or two before breakfast to fill the hole in our stomachs. And the

sneakers came in handy today, too. In P.T. we had to run a mile & a half to two miles. Never would have made it in my G. I. shoes. But had no trouble at all in my sneakers.

Say, mom, that rule you sent was an engineering rule used in drafting, not a slide rule. But that's O.K. One of the boys sent home for his, so we have 2 now, and that's enough.

Needn't bother sending me V mail forms, mom. I have some. Bought 'em in Raleigh in order to write to Joe.

Rec'd a letter from Bob Roche yesterday. He's now in Camp Kilmear. Told him to keep a lookout for Gil, so perhaps he'll see him. Bob tells me he's going overseas, so I guess it won't be long. Only a few of the fellows from basic are with him. I imagine he's had a furlough, so he doesn't mind going. I told him to keep his eye out for Joe & Al Kewman, and to have a beer with them if he ever met up with them over there.

Ed Conley, one of the boys in the room, who washed out of aviation cadet training, says that flying men in combat get a 30 day furlough after completion of 50 missions. Don't like to raise your hopes, since you know how the Army works, but why don't you ask Joe if ~~he~~ he's being extended that privilege.

Good news was posted on the bulletin board tonight
I sign the payroll tomorrow night. There is a small
possibility of being paid by Saturday. I sure hope
it comes thru by then. That dough sure will look
good.

John tells me Frank Brennan is having a tough
job with the draft board. They're trying to intimidate
him, & have even called him a "damn liar." But Frank
has a good and worthy case, so I hope he makes out
all right.

Well mom, I guess that's about all I have to say.
Classes are going along all right, so far. They keep me
busy. We have 6 hrs of phys. trng per wk., of which
2 hours are swimming. The ~~etc~~ calisthenics are practical
and tough. So consequently I'm beginning to feel
in better physical shape than when I was in
basic. Am neither losing nor gaining weight. Just
a mass of muscle, not an ounce of fat, that's all!

Just think, by the time you get this I'll
have only 9 more weeks to go here. ^{(for a} ~~for a~~ ^{while?}
_{furlough)}
So long for a while.

Love & prayers, as ever,
Frank.

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