

D ec. 23rd., 1942

Dear G. G. Ho. Jim: -

After reading your last letter, I should have a "swelled head". You flatter me too much. However, I'm prone to agree with you on most of your flattery. I've no false ideas about myself; but I do appreciate my good and bad points. I too think I've done fairly well.

I didn't think I could make a good cadre sergeant; but after training and drilling the new men for nearly two weeks, I know different. I'm good. Today, one of the lieutenants, as well as the top kick, commended me on my handling of the men. I'm really doing extraordinarily well. I hope I maintain the standard I'm now setting for myself.

Each evening finds me busy with one thing or another. Those evenings

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that I'm free. I try to catch up on my sleep. It's really tough sledding - starting a new division. You know George, truthfully - I'm getting to be a real soldier. I'm really proud of this.

George, it's not easy to sit down and write about the day's work, or what's going on. The momentum of the day's hard work propels you like a machine, and to sit patiently and introspectively or slowly think out a letter is most difficult. You'd have to be in the army to appreciate this. Don't ask Danny, who I trust is well, about this. For he isn't "soldiering," I am. I consider the infantry the only branch of the service that permits the use of the word "soldier" to be associated with. We really take a beating; but

it tends to get under one's skin; especially so, when you're doing the darning.

I've taken a few pictures, which should be ready any day now.

Same will be mailed to you as soon as possible.

Just as you can't appreciate the army as can I, so I realize I can't appreciate being a parent as can you. Your love and devotion for Jim is quite open, I only hope he turns out to be half the man you are. But with guidance such as he's fortunate in having, he's bound to.

Thanks again, I believe I thanked you once, for the card with the money enclosed. It really came in handy. Glad that Kay located a clock; which is a "must" on my list.

Fran sent two packages; but only one is in my possession so far. This one contained 2 cartons of cigarettes. The contents of no. 2 is a mystery. But I think it contains some Kiwi shoe polish; which is the best in the world, and also a shoe brush outfit. Letters from Fran have steadily kept my morale up. A day doesn't pass without a letter from her. Practice does make perfect; for her letters are becoming more enjoyable and lengthy every week. I think mine are getting worse every day.

I've the last book that Stefan Zweig wrote; but haven't had a chance to read same in 4 days. That proves how busy I am.

George, the following is to be kept a secret from Mom and Pop. I don't think they would like

another disappointment such as was experienced a short while ago. But here's the latest.

Furloughs have come through again!! —

Same one to commence Jan. 2. 10 % of the cadre; which is 1 man per company, can leave at one time. Leaves are to last 9 days. If this works out according to schedule — I should be home towards the latter part of January. Remember — this can be repeated, as was the 1st. one. But, I'm more certain, (at least, I tell myself I am) of this one. But this brings up a financial problem. I guess the only thing to do is send about \$50 home. I should have furlough notification

I have been thinking of you
very much lately and wondering
how you are getting on.

I hope you are well and happy.

Yours truly,
John Doe

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b.

at least a few days in advance. This will allow you to wise money back to me. If I keep it down here — well — I'll send it home, if you know what I mean! —

If you tell Mom & Pop — advise. Use your own judgment, I'm letting Fran know too. But please — remember the alamo, and expect the worst.

Hoping every thing's lucky
doin' — Best wishes for 1943; which,
let us pray is "the" year!

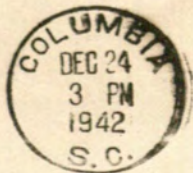
With a fraternal handshake in mind —

P.S. - Heard anything from Bob
Joe Shapiro?

S/Sgt. Robt. Stoff

399 INF. CO. I A.P.O. 100.

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Free

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