

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

Tues 4/6/43

My dearest -

I know that you've been anxiously awaiting this letter. I'm sorry I couldn't contact you sooner but we aren't permitted to phone or telegram until our 14 day confinement is over.

Harling, I never expected to get into this outfit. It's a new unit and it seems swell. The officers, from the Captain down, are grand fellows. At least here we are spoken to as intelligent humans and we

aren't abused and pushed about the way we were at times at Dix.

We left Dix at 3:40 yesterday (Mon.) afternoon. Our train consisted of 7 coaches and a mess car. We had been told to leave out our toilet ^{articles} and mess kits so we knew we were going quite a distance. We weren't told our destination but after riding about an hour we knew we were headed south. We ate ~~had~~ supper on the train. We were served on paper plates and cups. The menu was stewed meat, boiled potato, string beans, bread & jam, coffee, fig-newtons, and an apple. The meal was

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prepared on wood-burning stoves and the smoke that issued forth was terrific. We got the food from the ~~mess~~^{kitchen} car but ate in our own coaches.

We reached Washington about 9:00 P.M. and 8 coaches were added. Each of us had an individual seat but still the sleeping was uncomfortable. We ate breakfast at 6:00 A.M. (^{orange} Cornflakes, milk, eggs + bacon, bread and jam and coffee).

We first guessed our destination this morning at breakfast when we saw that they weren't going to feed us on the train again. How-

even we were afraid ^{to} of being sent to Fort M^c Clelland or some other Infantry camp. It was a pleasant surprise being attached here.

Our battalion is a Coast ~~gun~~ Artillery, anti-aircraft unit. I am attached to the headquarter section of the headquarter ~~battalion~~ ^{battery}. (Are you confused?) There are 4 batteries in all. Our group of men do not handle the guns but ~~we~~ we form a pool from which are drawn the divers, clerical workers, communications etc.

In short we are a service unit, consisting of specialists.

Our Captain told us that ~~we~~ we would train for at least 5 months before we could be called a fighting unit. Then we

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could be sent to a post someplace else. He ~~emphazised~~ emphasised the fact that just ~~ca~~ because our training would be completed was no reason why we would be shipped. We might be assigned in the states for the duration. But I feel that my chances are better here than in the infantry.

This camp appears to be quite new. Unfortunately ^(which now is spelled) the nearest town is 32 miles and it's very small. The train connections are very bad. Takes about 18 hours to get to N. Y.

Maybe I can meet you in Washington for a week-end. & We have plenty of friends and relatives there who could accomodate us for a week-end. What do you think?

We eat out of mess. kits here. All we need do is rinse the utensils after we finish and they dry by themselves. So far the meals here are better than Dix. We don't get more food but it is prepared much better.

All in all I think I'll like it here. There's an O. C. S. unit here too and when I'm thru with basic I intend applying.

I also have a distinct advantage of the fellows assigned to gun crews in that I'll be in contact

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with the officers. That should
improve my chances to advance.
~~Darling, if your folks didn't~~
~~get that money belt yet tell~~
~~them I'd rather have~~

If you should see Moe.
remind him about sending down
the Sun. Tribune.

Please please write as soon
and as often as you can.

Send everyone my regards.
More tomorrow

with all my love
Hal

P.S. Yes ??!!!

Post. Harold Cohen 32776683
Hq. + Hq Battery
116th CA. Bn. (AA)
Camp Davis, N. C.

Free

Miss Beverly A. Moore
7701 Colonial Rd.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Save