

* Good stretch of work but there is always plenty of time to rest up. Indeed it is the boredom and monotony that is the worst.

Most of us are getting pretty sick of maneuvers. We have been on the move now over a month and I for one would like to sit in a chair. We either stand up here or lie down. Two months I am sure will be enough.

Some of our battery (we travel by batteries not as a regiment) have been captured and they had a grand time. They say you meet fellows from all over and it is a great diversion.

Every now and then we are allowed to go to a neighboring town, but it is always so full of soldiers that there is not much point in it. However

Sept. 9th

Dear Mother -

I am sorry not to have written before, but this outdoor life is not very conducive to letter writing. Once I wrote a card, but it got lost before I could mail it. Received your letters regularly - thanks. I was interested about Bill. Gloria is quite common in the Army and is in & ready for a discharge - too bad for Bill.

We have led a rather restless life for the past month and now we have only about three weeks more. Our routine concerns a series of problems which are military situations thought up at headquarters. Each problem lasts about 3 or four days. During that time we are always under war conditions - no lights, camouflage, night movements etc. Our particular

Our regiment is in a red army.
We are supposed to be an
invading army moving north
from New Orleans. I understand
that we have about 45,000 men
on our side with about 65,000
men on the 'blue' or enemy
force.

It is all quite confusing and
most of the time we don't
know where or what we are
doing. Some night we get an
'alert' and pack up and move
off about 20 or 30 miles. Then we
set up camp to stay possibly
a few hours or possibly a few
days.

We are now out of the forest
I wrote about and our camp
sites are varied, sometimes in a
field, other times in a swampy
forest. We never do much more
than make our beds on the

ground. Sometimes if it is wet ^{or}
or there are too many snakes, we
sleep in the trucks. Strangely
enough I haven't been at all
bothered with mites trouble. It
is better than it has been all
year. I can't understand it. I
have though been bothered by
poison ivy. I have some of it
still on my chest. Some of the
boys had it bad and took injections.
Mine isn't that bad. There has
also been some dysentery, but
so far I have avoided even the
slightest touch. All in all I
feel fine and am getting fat
and lazy. There is nothing to do
all day, but sleep and eat.
Sometimes it's too hot to sleep so
we eat more.

When I see the work done by
the engineers and infantry I
consider myself very lucky.
Every now and then we have a

⑥ there the whole time. But then we might also move around. anyway the address will be the same.

Now I come to the big news. Perhaps you know that they are going to let some men out. Well it looks now as though I will be one of the lucky ones. I'm not sure if it will be exactly a month from today but the chances are pretty good. It hardly seems possible. Don't however consider it positive because a lot can happen in a month.

I only hope we don't go to war.

Now as usual I am full of plans and ideas. Providing they don't run a troop train home, the Army has I believe 5 cents a mile for transportation to point of enlistment. It totals

about \$10,000 from Texas. Now if I get out in October and get the money, a friend and myself are seriously considering going to the coast for about a month.

There are all sorts of ways we can get out cheaply and it seems like an excellent chance to see the country. We would of course not be gone long, just a few weeks. We have relatives there who have asked him out and I know a few fellows I would like to see.

As yet it is only an idea and a lot hinges on conditions - but occasionally these ideas materialize. Quite a few of the boys are doing it but I would want to go only with the one fellow. It's all out though if they don't give us the money.

I'll write more about it when I

know more, but I didn't want
it to come as a complete surprise
at the same time I would look
for a job. There are many
opportunities in the west and
I would be crazy not to look
into them.

Well, mess call has sounded
and I have to go and eat.
Lots of love to all.

Med.

most of us try it just for
the change and possibly a
bottle of beer after an hour wait.

Right now we (Battery A) are
located near Colfax (11 miles).
We are in the woods and
sheltered under trees. We are
living worthy in the trucks.

It is rumored that the 'blue'
Army is very near and we are
about to be captured. It seems
the 'reds' are destined to lose
this particular problem. However
it will all be over until the
15th when the final and
biggest game starts which will
last two weeks steady. It is
Army against army and will
probably include over a half million
men. We are sure just where
our regiment will be. We might
very well be set up near a
bridge or rail head and stay



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