



CAMP HULEN
TEXAS

Sunday

Dear Mother -

Well here I am, back in the battery after five months of special duty at the Exchange. There are of course a few adjustments to be made but on the whole I believe I will be glad I made the move. Most of this week, due to a continuous rain, has been spent in classes. When the weather is good, there are classes on various topics relating to search-lights & sound location, held in the tents. There are certain tests that are given. I will be given one - the second class gunners examine - in about a week. It really doesn't amount to much as everybody has to take it and most everybody passes.

Thursday the battalion (there are two) took a 8 mile road march. It was my first and afterward my feet were in bad shape due mainly to ill-fitting shoes. I put in a complaint & I hope to receive some new ones shortly. If I can't get a proper fit, I will be in rather tough shape.

Yesterday we had a stiff inspection by our battery commander and unfortunately I didn't

do too well. - partly due to nervousness and lack of experience. Also my pants didn't have enough crease in them. - bad business.

About April first our battery is going about 600 miles to a place near Midlands, Texas for intensive training. We are not going to El Paso. Midlands is supposed to be very beautiful, high dry and in the center of the mountain range country. I hope I can go although my chances are not too good as they have to leave about 30 men here in camp. Being new I probably will have to stay. As far as we know the mail address is still the same.

This morning I went to church for the first time in many weeks. It seemed nice. Church is held in the recreation stage and is short but nice. They have a small altar with two candles.

Today is very beautiful. The sun is out and very warm and the birds are singing. There are mostly ~~crackles~~ down here. We have rolled part of the tent fly back and the sun is streaming in on our beds. We all have our shirts and pants off and some are sleeping, others like myself are sitting in the sun.

I received your letter O.K. I don't know what kind of a regiment the 7th Cavalry was one in but around here they just don't make corporals and sergeants by the dozen. Some fellows, bright ones.



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have been in for years and have no rank. no new fellows in this battery have been given even a private first class. They have made a few officers but they were mostly men who have had Reserve training at college or who were older. I missed out in the first group by being too young. If I get some experience, as I'm now doing, I will have a better chance. It all takes time. It is highly possible that I will get nothing out of the Army except experience, which is what I intended when I joined. Anything else will be gravy, but not the meat.

There are all sorts of rumors around about moving. I firmly believe that when we come back from Midland (if we do come back here) the entire regiment will shortly after leave. The fellows have been told to send home, books, radios and any civilian clothes and non-army equipment. It means that ~~we~~ we will have to live out of duffle bags for a few months which is very hard. You see we are supposed to be a mobile, motorized unit and ready to move at a

minutes notice. We ride in trucks and don't
have to carry any large packs. I'm very glad
I'm not in the infantry. Drilling I don't go
for although we have to do some of it.
Every soldier is supposed to know how to
handle a rifle.

I see more of Jim McNeal now that I am
back in the battery. He seems to be getting along
fine. He was made a Private 1st class.

Twice a week I am going to a special school
not required. I am studying radio and trigonometry.
It gives me something to do and at the same time
helps my mind from becoming lazy & crusty.

Unfortunately we will probably move before I get
very far along. However every little bit helps.

Yesterday I received a letter from Bud. He is
going to get married on June 21. (not for gossip)
and wants me to be an usher. I'm really sorry
I can't accept as I'm not sure where we'll be
then. I'll try to go if I can but outside of that I
can't say much.

Well lots of love to all —

Red

P.S. Now that I can't get free stamps any help
will be appreciated.



Mrs. W. F. Barcheldt
2 Howard St
Holyoke,
Massachusetts

W. P. Barchette - 2nd Lt. (AAS) - Box 2



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