

MIDLAND ARMY CENTER

210 WEST TEXAS AVENUE

Midland, Texas

Thursday.

Dear Mother -

It has been quite a while since I have written a letter. However with the exception of my trip to the Coulboud Lavens life here at camp has been quite routine and not very conducive to letter writing. As mentioned before, our camp is in a ball park. Three battery A's have joined and there are now about 700 of us. Every night we go out with the lights. We start about seven and get back about twelve. Reveille in the morning is at eight so that we get enough and many times more sleep than at Ft. Huachuca. During the mornings we clean and adjust the equipment. According to schedule we have the after-noon off. However as it has worked, I have had some detail or other most every after-noon. This is my first free after-noon in quite a few days.

I came to town to mail a present I sent to George Sheldon who is getting married this Saturday.

I sent him a nut bowl with handle made of highly polished myrtle wood which I bought at Carlsbad. I had a tough time finding anything within the proper price range. I hope he likes it.

My trip to Carlsbad was very interesting. It is about 200 miles from here. We left at our last Saturday and arrived at Carlsbad New Mexico about 7. The ride was quite nice. The scenery part way was desert-like and very hot. Six of us went with a sergeant who had a car. We slept that night in adobe.

They are very nice and inexpensive and this way. Sunday morning the Catholics went to early mass. Another Episcopalian and myself went to ~~our~~ church only to find the first service wasn't until 9 o'clock. We could not wait that late as the caverns are about 30 miles from the town.

The trip thru the caves takes about 5 hours. all in all you walk about eight miles. There is a lunch room in the cave and you eat there.

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It is very beautiful and well worth the walk. Soldiers get in for nothing, others pay \$1.75. About 800 went through that day. It is a huge place and they filled up only a corner of one of the rooms. During the trip, we had an Easter Service performed by an Army Chaplain. They played music and sang hymns with the ladies. It was rather impressive. The temperature was 56° in the car. That afternoon we drove back to camp.

I guess that will be about the extent of my travelling. There is really no place within range worth going to from here that I haven't been. Furthermore it is more consistently rumored that we will soon be leaving. The latest date is May 15. We will head home by truck. However as yet nothing definite.

I am writing this letter in a room the citizens of Midland have set up for the soldiers. It has paper magazines and easy chairs. It is well appreciated as our tents are small, dark and we have no trunks. The lights are one to a tent and weak making it almost impossible to write at night or early evening. The days are very hot. 90° today. It is though a dry heat and not as oppressive as the summer at home.

Thank you very much for the letter box. I have received all your letters no matter how addressed. The book I can use although I still need some that are heavier. The thin ones slide down in my shoes. Coincidentally about two weeks ago I was blessed with two new pairs of shoes - size 11 A - perfect fits. It's a pleasure to walk again. May others wear 9 D's.

I haven't sent the long promised box - It's back at Hudson. Did you receive the pictures?

Love to all

Fred.

P.S. I now weigh 155

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