

Dear Mother;

February 18, 1941

This is just a short letter to tell you how much I enjoyed your valentine and let you know that things are just about the same around here. The money although not necessary makes for more pleasant living and gives me the opportunity to do a few extra things such as eat a meal or two down town, away from the crowded mess hall and general boarding house confusion.

The other day, I used some of the money and went horse back riding. I went with another fellow that works in the Canteen. We had a marvelous time. The ranch where we went is located about four miles out of Palacios. We hired a taxi to take us out to it. Then a young kid started to round up the horses. He had to lasso them. We used regular western saddles. My horse was a cow pony and not very large, but plenty of pep. First we rode around the dirt roads and then we set off across the prairies. We chased cows and had a good time. My pony seemed to like to chase the cows and when he saw one stray away from the main herd, he would go after it as fast as he could. There was little I could do about it except hang on. We had to ford a stream and climb up a steep embankment so all in all I got a good workout for my first time on a horse in several years. The next day I could hardly stand up and move around. However, I feel better now and am looking forward to going again. It cost only fifty-cents an hour and I think it is a good way to spend my money. When we came back we had a big steak dinner and then went to a movie. So all in all it was a fine after-noon.

I am still in the Canteen although as mentioned before I don't do very much. I am now waiting until a draftee can come in here permanently to work and then I will be out. I will be glad. The weather is gradually warming up a bit and soon spring will be here in full force. Most of us have fairly good tans now. It still gets pretty cold at nights though and on rainy days it is quite miserable. The one thing I am not looking forward to is the misquitos and bugs. Soon they will come out and then our troubles will start. I hear they are quite bad around here. I don't like snakes, particularly rattle-snakes.

I presume that now you are having the most disagreeable part of the winter. Soon the slushy season will start in and life won't look too good. I am glad that we are going to miss all that. There is still no information as to when we are leaving. Probably it won't be until well along in the spring. I don't want to leave it until all the bad weather has left the place we are going to; if you

get what I mean.

I received the newspaper in good order and thanks again. I also received a letter from Bob MacLane written after Carnival. He said that Dave had flown up and from what I imagine, they must have had a fine time. I certainly wish I could have been there. I also received a letter some weeks ago from Cousin Dalton. It didn't contain much reading matter, but was a gentle breeze from the North. I guess I will answer it some day although I'm not sure I will.

Tell Julia that I enjoyed her letter very much, and that I am duly ashamed for not answering it sooner than I intend to do in the near future. Her style is terrific and I laughed myself right out of my bed.

Just for your information, I might say that I have gained about fifteen or twenty pounds depending on how much beer I have been drinking before I weigh myself. I am getting positively fat and thats one reason I will be glad to get back to the battery. I am not the only one though. Nearly everybody puts on weight, many of them more than I. I sleep well and believe myself to be in good health. Occasionally I have the sniffles but have had really only one bad cold. Perhaps I am speaking out of turn as right now one battery after the other is being quarantined because of German measles. It happens at camp, it happens at school and now it happens in the Army. I guess I'll live through it though.

Saturday the regiment is going to march in Houston. I however do not march as I am sill at the Canteen. There is one example of what I miss by not being a regular soldier.

Well I guess I have covered most everything. I hope to put some pictures in the envelope, but will probably forget to do so. Please save them. Thats a silly request isn't it? I'll take some more someday and will send them home someday.

Love to all, dog included.

F

P.S. Please send down about six (6) pairs of brown wool socks. They can be bought at Beanie Mills on the first floor, near the door. I bought some before and gave you the paper label, remember? My socks are getting holey + don't have time to sew. also please send two cotton undershirts. The socks have what they call a lining. - Thanks

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