



CAMP HULEN
TEXAS

Wednesday
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Dear Mother -

I presume you are anxious to receive this letter. No doubt you will be surprised to learn that for the first time in a year I find myself in surroundings that I really enjoy. After a three day convey trip through East Texas and western Louisiana covering swamps, marshes and otherwise hell-holes of camping grounds, we now find ourselves situated in a beautiful pine forest about 15 miles north of Alexandria, La.

Our regiment is scattered, along with many others, throughout a forest reserve. There are only pine trees here and no swamps or underbrush. Practically no mosquitos and a few gnats.

During the day it is very hot in the sun, but one can usually get in the shade. At night it is cooler, but not at all cold. It is possible to lie down anywhere on the bed of pine-needles and go to sleep. We have had rain only once - the day we arrived. It is all such a pleasant surprise, especially to me as it is so similar to camping in Maine. During the day we have very little to do - just enough to be

active. as it stands now we will be here ten or fifteen days. I hope more. It seems the real maneuvers haven't started yet and this is a meeting place for regiments coming from all over the South.

There is however, very little to do for entertainment. The nearest town Alexandria, is 15 miles away - always packed with soldiers and the natives are very hostile to soldiers. Only 10% of the regiment can go at any one time so it is best not to even count on going to town. A truck brings in beer, soda etc each night. We generally go to bed about 9 o'clock. all in all it is very delightful, haunted only by the spectre of another year or two. I won't even go any further along that line as yet I hear anything definite.

My job while on this little 'trip' is to handle the supply room - all but food. It doesn't amount to much as the boys were all outfitted before they started. It does however give me the privilege of a larger tent and my living quarters are airy and large in comparison. Three of us - a driver, battery mechanic and myself sleep together. We always have a big water-melon on hand - they cost only 20¢ down here delicious ones. The food is even better than at camp. The main drawback is a shortage of water. It works on a ration system - not too bad though. I hope all is well at home -

With lots of love,

Red.

P.S. stamps!

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