

things in order so I could go on my furlough. I was given a special six day furlough starting the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup> five other fellows and myself started out for Mexico. We rented a taxi and drove for \$6.00 a piece. First we went to Brownsville, Texas a distance of about 400 miles. We arrived there about 6 P.M.; hired rooms in a hotel and then went across the border into Mexico. We went into a rather small town called Matamoros. We had supper in a restaurant there which consisted of quail, tamales, avocado peas & wine - all for 60 cts. Food is

Tuesday

Dear Mother -

a lot of things have happened within the last few days; I really don't know where to begin. Perhaps I should start before Christmas. On Christmas eve I tried to call you. I had to wait until after noon in order to get the low rates. That made it after eight your time. After waiting in line for an hour I decided that by the time I would put the call through you would have gone out as you said you had planned. The next day I went to telephone and the operator said I would have to wait 2 1/2 to 3 hours before a wire would be clear. The phone is about a mile



from home.

I want to thank you now for the large box & all that was in it. you made very fortunate choice. I needed a flashlight badly (having 'borrowed' one from the lantern for the last few days), also Stescalp. The candy & cake were also very good. The ribbon candy made a great hit with me and the other fellows.

It was a beautiful day on Christmas - warm & the sun was bright. All in all it was pretty quiet and ended up with a game of cribbage.

The day after Christmas, I went to work, but was very busy getting

away and a Christmas party was going on in the battery so I decided not to wait. I sent the telegram instead. I am sorry I didn't call as I had saved for it and was going to call it my Christmas present. As it was I had to send the telegram collect as there was no way to pay for it over the phone. It isn't a real pay station.

Christmas day was quite nice. We had a very special dinner, and the mess shack was decorated with trees, lights etc. afterward there was a party with silly presents, singing, speeches etc.

In the tent we had smaller parties with beer & our presents



perhaps something has gone wrong.  
It will certainly be a dull New Year's  
eve if nobody gets any money.

Well I guess I'll stop now.  
Please thank Julia for her present  
which I needed as my own had been  
lost.

Hoping all is well with you

Love,

Jack.

very cheap in Mexico. After  
dinner we went to a small cafe  
where there was music, dancing  
and a rather risqué floor show.  
We had a good time there and  
came back to Brownsville about  
2 A.M.

The next day (30<sup>th</sup>) we took the  
car and took a trip through some  
of the Mexican countryside. We  
stopped and wandered here &  
there in the market places.

Mexico (the part that we saw) is  
rather dirty & squalid. It is  
interesting though. The exchange in  
money is good and prices are  
consequently quite low. We had a  
Venician dinner for 80 cents.



① missed. We stopped at oil wells along the way.

On the way down we went thru Corpus Christi & stopped to see the ships come in and look out the docks. The city is a very famous sea port.

all in all we had a good time. I wanted to go to San Antonio but I ran out of money so had to camp with the rest. We arrived home late Sunday morn. I have until the 2nd (morn) nothing to do. Today is pay day so I will get my \$21 - I hope. I am writing this letter just before dinner & we were supposed to have been paid before now.

The morn of the 28<sup>th</sup> we came back (it is against the law for soldiers to stay out - night) and slept in an army camp of a Texas regiment.

The 29<sup>th</sup> we drove up the Rio Grande valley and saw the fruit orchards. Then we headed towards home and went thru typical ranch & prairie. We went thru the King ranch (the world's largest) for more than 40 miles. We saw several wild deer and birds of all sorts.

Our drink was a real Texan & he pointed out various things of interest that would ordinarily be



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