



CAMP HULEN
TEXAS

Sunday
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Dear Mother -

Thanks for your letter. I enjoy receiving them very much and they only tend to make me more hopeful of an early return North. At present the air is full of speculation as to whether or not we will be kept in more than a year. It is impossible to tell and I for one have given up worrying about it. Some of the boys spend all their odd hours discussing the subject - it seems a waste of time as I am sure much depends on what happens within the next few months. That of course can't be foretold.

For really the first time since I have been in the Army, I am more or less enjoying it. When I first entered I was restless, ready to beat the world, etc. I dove headlong into the Army stone wall of prejudice, tradition, red tape and ignorance. I boxed my head several times - at the canteen, as regards officers school and in other respects. After having been set back on my heels, I believe that at last I realize my own shortcomings and my place in the Army. It all was a bitter pill to swallow but the benefits are

I believe, worth a year. I have gained over 50 lbs which is as much as I want to. My health is fine and I seem to endure most all the trials of army life with a minimum of difficulty. My nose is clear and eyes about the same. I wear my gloves quite regularly but don't want to become entirely dependent upon them.

For mental stimulation I have done quite a bit of reading. There is really a wonderful opportunity, as ~~one~~ ~~has~~ a great deal of free time. One of the boys belongs to a book club which along with a current best-seller give a classic book each month. Nobody bothers to read the latter except myself. Hence I am now reading the best of literature, such as Zola, Voltaire, Stoen etc. Books which I knew of but never got around to read while studying.

I sent a package the other day which you no doubt have received. Divide up the loot as you see fit and add the pictures to the collection. Please keep the belt for me. I bought the goods in Mexico.

Enclosed is \$15 to be used (in part I hope) for gifts present. I have already paid \$2.00 in a combined gift from the nurses (a secret) so I hope your gift isn't too expensive. I'm sure I won't be able to go. No furloughs are being given.

Love.

Red

CAMP HULEN
TEXAS



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Joe