



CAMP HULEN
TEXAS

Sunday
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Dear Mother-

I presume that by now you are home after your trips to the Cape and Vermont. I hope you had a good time. I was interested to hear about Bob Cortwood and Maynard Lippman. Was Bob drafted? You seem surprised at the discontentment the boys displayed. I of course don't know what they said or exactly how they feel, but there is a lot of discontentment among the soldiers. However it is the soldiers inalienable right to grumble and perhaps you were misled by the words. Some of the boys around here are getting pretty fed up with the whole business. Now that the prospects for getting out in a year are growing slimmer, their pent up disgust is beginning to show. This is particularly true in the case of the draftees.

There are many causes for complaint, some of them justified; others are only part of the military

way of life.

I try to look upon it as a hopeless mess and no part of it is any worse than the other. In some respects we are fortunate down here. The weather is hot but the nights are cool. We live in tents and not barracks, which I believe gives more opportunity for quiet and privacy. There are occasionally times when your five tent-mates may be out and you can be alone. I imagine that happens very seldom in a barracks. Also our camp is relatively small and that has some good points.

However the main disadvantage is the lack of entertainment and the distance from home. That brings up the point of furloughs. We now (since yesterday) are given the opportunity for applying for a furlough. A certain small percentage of the battery is going to be allowed to go home some time during July for a period of ten days. It takes 3 1/2 days each way which leaves 5 days at home. The cost is about \$60 for transportation and food. That makes the price of a visit out \$10 a day plus any money used while at home. That's pretty expensive. I appreciate the fact that you offer me the money, also I would like to come home, but considering I have only



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three more months, it seems that I could wait ^{the} year. I am sure I will have greater need of the money when I get home. Furthermore I have found that a short weekend at home is quite unsatisfactory. The time is too short to settle down to normal routine and our views are different as to what I should do. While my mental outlook needs a change, it is not as bad off as some of the fellows and I'm sure it can stand the strain without too much difficulty. So the sum and total of the situation is that I won't ask for a furlough unless I hear from you very soon to the contrary or unless the furlough granted would be for twenty days. It is indeed possible that I couldn't get one anyway as already over 100 have applied and only about 50 will be granted.

If within the next few days you receive a letter for me from the War Department,

please forward it under a separate cover.
Also please see what magazine is being
held up in the post office.

If you send any package at a future date,
would you send my polaroid gloves and
bathing trunks along. I have a pair of gloves
but I might use the polaroid.

You might ask friend Rush if there is any
movement of planes from Westport Field to San
Antonio and if so what would be the possibilities
of getting a ride. It is done but usually not
so far.

Lots of love.

Jim.

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W. J. Boehlder
211 (C.A. Co.) Bldg. A
Camp. Hulen,
Texas



Mrs. W. J. Boehlder
2 Harvard St.
Holyoke,
Massachusetts