

Sunday

Dear Mother -

Things are at last getting organized or at least a start has been made in the right direction. I guess though that things are never really set in the Army. Something is always coming up to cause confusion. Invariably something goes wrong or somebody does the wrong thing. However eventually some sort of progress is made. I am at least getting a good insight into the way things are done by the government.

Around the exchange there is always something amiss. an order fails to arrive, or is mixed up; the ice man doesn't come; a captain gets shot changed; somebody wants to inspect the books; the clerks don't get paid - all these things and more to, I try to straighten out or smooth over.

I am taking a few more hours off each day. as yet I haven't had a day off. Friday I got all ready but just as I left, the Lieutenant had to do some other work and so I took off my dress uniform and stayed here. I had planned to go to Corpus Christi and spend the night.

One of the sailors asked me to his house for dinner.

Now that I am on the subject of vacations, I will tell you about Christmas. Those fellows that have \$50 can get a ten day leave and go

home. They won't have much time and it seems expensive but quite a few are doing it. Even if I had the money I couldn't come home as either the Lieutenant or myself has to be here at the Exchange. Hence each of us are taking five days off. I think my five days start the 36th.

Another fellow and myself are planning to go to Mexico - probably Monterrey. I hear it is very beautiful there and quite inexpensive. It will most likely be my last chance to visit Mexico and I hope we can go.

I guess Jim is planning to go home. I'll ask him to get in touch with you if he can.

The weather down here is very miserable just now. It has rained part of each day for the last five days and the ground is covered with about four inches of soft mud. The walking is very hard and the mud gets on everything. It is also quite damp. Today the temperature was about 65°.

Our tents have small wood stoves in them which makes it nice. The canteen has a stove but is still rather damp. I will be glad when we move to our new Exchange where there are wood floors and gas heat. This one has a cement floor.

I received the camera in good order. Thanks a lot. I will send you the pictures when I

a chance to take some.

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I am now listening to the 2nd hour. I have a small radio in my 'office' and each Sunday morn I like to listen to the symphony. My office is really a small corner partitioned off, with a desk and safe. It is ~~too~~ small, as is the whole building for the business we do.

I haven't heard any more about the officer's training course. Every thing takes time around here. I can only hope.

One of these nights I hope to go out with my searchlight battery so that I will have an idea as to how the actual military function is performed. It is really quite pretty to see the whole black sky lighted up ~~with~~ by the searchlights. We have about fifteen lights in our regiment. There are two other regiments.

The head barber has just come in and wants to make out a day off schedule for the barbers so I guess I'll have to stop now.

Lots of love,

Fred.

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