

things in order so I could go on my furlough. I was given a special six day furlough starting the 27th. On the 27th five other fellows and myself started out for Mexico. We rented a taxi and drove for \$6.00 a piece. Just as 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 lived up in a restaurant the which consisted of quail, tamales, avocados & were 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 11th o'clock, made it get the low rate. That 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. At that 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 my fortunate choice. I needed a flashlight badly (having 'borrowed' one from the lantern for the last few days), also Biscuits. 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. So it was I had to send the telegram collect as there was no way to pay for it over the phone. It can't be real pay station.

Christmas day was quite nice. We had a very special dinner, and the menu which was decorated with trees, lights etc. Afterward there was a party with rilly presents, singing, speeches etc.

In the ~~all~~ we had smaller parties with beer & our presents

Perhaps something has gone wrong.
It will certainly be a dull New Year
day 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.

⑤

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

2 A.M.

The next day (28th) we took the
car and took a trip thru some
of the Mexican countryside. We
stopped and wandered here &
there in the market places.

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

⑦ moved. We stopped at oil wells along the way.

On the way down we went through Corpus Christi & stopped to see the ships come in and look out the docks. This 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 come back with the rest. We arrived home late Sunday morn. I have sent the 2nd ~~part~~ nothing to do. Today is pay day so I will get my \$21-I hope. I am writing this letter just before dinner & we will endeavor to have been paid before now.

The morn of the 28th 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 29th we drove up the Rio Grande valley and saw the fruit orchards. Then we headed towards home and went through typical ranch & prairie. We went through the King ranch (the world's largest) for more than 40 miles. We saw several wild deer and birds of all sorts.

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

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