

THE 211TH C A [AA] REGIMENTAL EXCHANGE

CAMP HULEN, TEXAS

Dear Mother;

I have been rather negligent again. I was supposed to have written last Sunday and here it is Thursday. I have no excuse except the usual one; put it offishness, laziness etc. This time I haven't been too busy. However things are getting nowhere around here. I still am working at the Canteen although I don't do very much. The work I was doing is now being done by three people and hence I just sit around, look dumb and get in the way. Its and easy life anyway and I don't think I'll mind it for a few weeks. I sleep about ten hours a night and part of the after-noon. That seems to be the way things are done in the Army; first all work and then none. Its a great life, complicated by all sorts of things and very hard to describe. I realize I haven't been too descriptive in my letters, but then there is really nothing much to describe.

Every morning I get up about seven-thirty or eight. (I might say that I am about the only one in the regiment that has this privilege. How I got it I don't fully understand). Next I wash and shave. We now have hot water and showers. Quite the luxury. Following my toilet, I run, saunter, or stroll about a quarter of a mile to the Canteen. My choice as to the gait depends on the weather. I have to eat my breakfast at the Canteen because the battery's breakfast is served at seven; long before I awake. When at work, I merely walk around, look important and occasionally give a bit of advice; advice I learned from past experience. I leave about eleven-thirty, go back to the battery, eat lunch, then lie down for about an hour. The after-noons are varied. Most of them are spent talking with salesmen, doing odd errands or sleeping. Which one depends on the Exchange officer, my ambition or the persistence of the salesmen.

Supper is at five. After supper I ~~may~~ or may not come back to the Exchange. Occasionally I come back and help the bookkeeper on the records. Other times I go to the movies, to Palacios (town) or just stay around the tent. More often I do all three. I have read quite a bit, mostly military manuals, but I have managed a few good books. The regiment has quite a good library and I hope to be able to use it more.

The real advantage in my present position is that I still have all the liberties I formerly had but never could use for lack of time. I have to report to no formations and have a pass good for any time of day or night. It makes it very nice but not much like the Army.

I am afraid though that soon my little paradise will soon end. I will soon go back to the battery. In a way I will be glad because after a time I get sort of tired just lazying around. Also I don't know how much credit I am being given for my work. However I think that makes much difference. I haven't yet figured out just what ~~way~~ promotions and ratings are given around here. That part of my life is still an enigma.

Well I have to go now and eat lunch. You have to be on time or else I would have to wait until the others were through and I'm hungry. I certainly was surprised to hear about Bill Kessler. Just after I received your letter, I received a letter from him. When I hear things like that, I am glad I joined. I must at least always keep in mind that my year is rapidly going. Over a third of my time has gone by now and I am now making thirty dollars a moth. No longer a rookie.

There are all sort of rumors as to where and when we will move out of here. However they are just rumors and there are so many of them that I won't even bother to enumerate.

I would appreciate if you send down any pictures you might have of Carnival. No hurry.

Lots of love,

Fred

/W.F. Bachelder
THE 211TH CA (AA)
~~REGIMENTAL EXCHANGE~~
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