



ORDNANCE SCHOOL
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
MARYLAND

June 18th

Dear Mother -

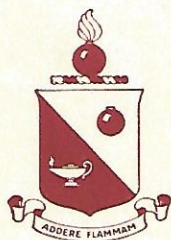
Things are about the same here as when I first arrived. Although we are working hard training troops, putting ourselves in condition etc. I have not been finally assigned either to an outfit or to a command headquarters. When that happens I will be much happier. Also perhaps the mail situation will improve. As yet I haven't heard from you + don't know when or if you are receiving my letters. I hope so. If you would try to use the V-mail system with the address on this envelope perhaps things will improve.

The part of Africa that I am in is quite different in some respects than you probably imagine. It is sort of scrub country with low bushes. Here and there are cultivated fields and occasionally an orange grove. Every now and then a rather high mountain rises above the otherwise rolling country.

There is very little water and you never see a stream or pond. at this time of year there is no rain and the sun beats down very hot all day. The sky is usually clear. at night it cools considerably and I sleep with at least two blankets every night. Our camp is located on a high bluff over looking the mediterranean and a cool breeze blows almost continuously. It doesn't do much good when you are in the sun, but when you can find some shade it is really quite refreshing. I am pretty well tanned up now and my nose peals all the time.

The breeze mentioned also has its down-side. It stirs up dust and sometimes the dust is very thick and gets in your luggage, bed, eyes, food and everywhere else. You get used to it after a while. When you dry your face the towel turns brown. There is a shower arrangement which we can use three times a week and we have enough water to wash in. Our drinking water tastes like chlorine so we try to drink lemonade (made from a powder) as much possible.

all in all though I'm getting fat and



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healthy. I'll be much happier when I get located in a regular permanent job.

I fear that perhaps my letter mailed on the boat was cut by the British censor. They are more strict than our own. as you probably know I came over on a British boat. It was very small, called a great deal and the trip took three weeks. It was part of the British Navy although it wasn't a warship. We were in a convoy and the way they operate was very interesting. We (the officers) had the run of the ship and loafed the whole day in the sun or playing cards. Of course I didn't feel too good at any time.

There were seven Army and seven Navy officers on board and several Army troops. It wasn't a troop ship though.

The food at first was very poor and after a complaint got better, but the English just

don't seem to know how to cook food or what is good. They boil everything, bacon, fish, beans, etc. I was glad to land and get some Army food.

I go into Ovan every now and then to get away from camp and see the sights. The Red Cross has ^{an} ^{office} club there with sandwiches lemonade, sometimes ice-cream. Also they hold ^(with Army nurses) dances, and help out in a thousand other ways. From every thing I can see and hear, the Red Cross is certainly doing a wonderful job for the soldiers and deserve a plug in the states whenever they can get it.

The natives are either French, refugees of all sorts, or Arabs. We don't have much to do with them. There are too many soldiers anyway for any chance of meeting a nice family unless you're extremely lucky. Furthermore we don't have much time for social affairs.

Well good-bye for now. Love to you, Julia and Sandy.

Fred.

P.S. are you receiving any cards?

LT. W. F. BACHELDER

O-1554851

CO. A, 7TH BN, 1ST REP. DEP.

A.P.O. 761

90 POSTMASTER, N.Y., N.Y.

June 18

rec'd July 24

"free"



Mrs. W. F. Bachelder

2 Harvard St.

Holyoke.

Massachusetts

U.S.A.

O.K.
W.F. Bachelder.