

Sgt N B Oakley 42010327
Hq Co 1st Bn 254 Inf APO 410
Camp Van Dern, Mississippi



Mr & Mrs N F Oakley
Asbury Park
New Jersey

RFD #1

Via Airmail



CAMP VAN DORN
MISSISSIPPI

28 July 1944

Dear Folks:

Today I recieved some definite news regarding my furlough. It will probably start on or about the 21 of July. I would have been home sooner, but the S-3 has to go on an umpiring mission, and it seems that I am so indispensable that they wont let me go until he comes back. Oh me such is life in the army.

On the proposition that you have to offer on going to work in Washington, I still cant make up my mind. For once in my life, I have attained something on my own merits, and frankly I'm proud of what I have accomplished. If I did take the suggestion which you people offer, it would just be the same old thing all over again, or getting something because of family connections or friends. I think that I will have to talk it over with Dad before I make any kind of a decision.

I am CO in Bn Hq again tonight, you should certainly know when I am, since its the only time I ever get to write to you. Incidentally, I just changed ribbons on the typewriter. Some difference. Also, the sun has now gone down, and its beginning to cool off in this veritable Hades. The temperature has gone down to 100°, and thats no kidding. Its almost 2000 now, so you can imagine what its like during the daytime, and just how cool it gets during the night. Fellows who have just come back from Jersey say that the weather is really swell up there.

I was recommende for Staff Sgt last week, but the asst Regtl CO turned it down. I dont know what the reason is, but I do know that any time I can help him out of a jam, he'll just have to whistle. I know that ~~it~~ sounds funny to have a Sgt help a Lt Col out of a jam, but twice I've been a good egg and kept my mouth shut when he goofed off. Oh well, such is the army. Needless to say I feel pretty blue, because I wanted the rating very badly.

I'm still following the same old routine day in day out, you'd think that I'd get tired of it soon. However, I like the responsibility of the job, and it gives me a good feeling to know that I have done a good job. I'm too egotistical, I'd better quit now----

Love-

Bruce