

met, I've found I can get a
job selling at any of the PX's
(Post Exchanges) but the hours
are irregular - so it looks
as tho the best bet is the
typist job. It pays about
\$5 less than the factory job.

8 - 4:30, Sun. off. So unless
I find the Telephone work
regular hours & better pay,
I'll start Tues. morn.

Will spend the rest of
the week finding a room.
I'll find one somewhere!

Now I'm waiting at
the Service Club to meet D. at
7. We probably won't be
able to leave the Fort, but
will see.

As you can see things are
fine I think about you a lot -
oh yes - D. is fairly sure he'll be
here 8 weeks. Loads of love

M.

109th day

Thursday August 9, 1945

Dear Mother and Dad,

I'm really very sorry that I have allowed a big break to form in my chain of letters - Marian's coming completely upset my routine and the time I formerly had for writing has been taken up (very pleasantly I assure you) seeing her.

being transferred I'll come to the really big news first - I'm from here to Fort Myer, Virginia on August 15. It came out of a perfectly blue sky day before yesterday. I have no notion why I'm going nor have I any notion what I'll be doing after I arrive. Fort Myer is a relatively small camp right across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The week we lived with the Heuschels in Arlington, Virginia we went right past the gate of Fort Myers on the bus going to work. I suspect that most of the soldiers stationed there work at some sort of a specialty in Washington or perhaps at the Pentagon Bldg which isn't far away. At any rate I'm really excited about the whole thing.

Now here's some more of the story - when the Company Clerk told me that I was leaving he also asked me if I had a car which I would want to drive fast. The fact that he asked me that made me suspect that there might be some advantage in driving over travelling by train so I asked him about it. He explained that if I did have a car and did want to drive the Army would probably give me from 14 to 16 days to make the trip and would pay me at least three cents a mile. Well I knew that we could make the trip in 7 days or so and at once I had visions of a chance at a week ^{spent} at home so I took a deep breath and said to the "Clerk - Yes, tell them I do have an Auto and I do want to drive" He said O.K.! So there I was in a self-dug hole without even a chance to talk it over with Marian or you folks or the Heirs.

I managed to get a pass yesterday morning and I rushed over to tell Marian the news (wasn't able to telephone her Tues. evening because we had a night problem) and as usual she was sweet enough to agree with my decision and so I started out to buy a car! What a job! Went to Tacoma first and grew very discouraged with what I found there - boy, what jalopies and what prices - for example the best one I saw was a 1935 Plymouth - \$96! After Tacoma I came back to a suburban community called South Tacoma and had little luck there. Went then to Olympia and at the first place found the best proposition of the day - a 1935 Chevrolet 4 door sedan recently repainted (a poor job but it covered the rust spots) the dealer (a very nice guy) insisted that the car had had but one previous owner (he offered to give us their name) and I have faith he was right because the car hasn't been hurt in any serious accident. The motor sounded good, the tires have quite a lot of tread and have not been recapped, the battery is new. Well as you have guessed when Marian got in from the fort and had looked the car over and we had taken a ride we bought it! How much? Well I'm ashamed to say - \$525 - isn't that terrible? Yes, it's terrible and also foolish probably but these are foolish days. We decided we'd just spend the money we have saved and let the chips fall where they may. How did we get the money - well we used the C.O.D. system - you know Call On Dad - this time Dad Heir! We called them last night and had them telegraph the money today - Marian will close the deal tomorrow night and we'll be able to get the certificate of registration etc. by Saturday!

So that's that! Plans now are that we'll leave here next Wednesday (15th) early in the morning I hope - will probably take us at least six days to get to Michigan considering that the old bus gives us no trouble. I still don't know when I'll have to be in Virginia but am hoping it'll be around the 30th. We'll be wanting

to spend a day or so in Granville but I guess we'd better not make too many plans until we put some of those numerous miles between here and the Middle West behind us.

And so it begins to look like the travelling Mathards are ready to take to the road again! We're looking forward to a grand trip home through some country I've not seen before and we have our fingers crossed hoping nothing mars our hastily laid plans.

Guess that's pretty much the story - exciting, eh? Hope I'll be able to fill in the details in person a little over ten days from now.

Marian was going to tell her boss today that she is leaving - they'll be disappointed because she had really made good and was going to be given a better job but that's the Army as they say here - a person never knows what's coming next all one can do is make the decisions if need be and hope he has guessed right.

It's past bed time now so I'll close well keep in touch with you regarding any new developments.

By the way don't let our coming alter in any way any vacation plans you may have made

Goodnight now, folks
Love Dick

137th day

Thurs. Morning
Sept 6, 1945

Dear Folks,

Starting off another day of waiting for something to happen. I seriously doubt if anything will happen, but in the Army one can only "sweat it out", wonder, and hope. However, generally speaking, this is not a bad place for waiting - for example it's now 8:15 a.m. and it's still fifteen minutes until time for late breakfast! Breakfast at 8:30 - that's hard to believe isn't it? I stay over in the city with Marian get up at 7:00 - 15 minutes to dress 15 minutes to drive over here - certainly glad we have Georgie! — arrive here at 7:30 I change into my fatigue clothes and help clean up the barracks - then it's time for breakfast. After breakfast the day's work starts - yesterday for example we mowed grass all day - well, not really all day $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the forenoon and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the afternoon Day before yesterday we spent the day building little fences for the intersections of sidewalks to keep the fellows from walking on the grass. Very important duties - telling you - calls for no less than four years college education!

There are about $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen of us in the technical detachment at the moment - 2 chemists (one with his PhD) and 2 physicists and another whose specialty I'm not acquainted with. The others have all been here about a week longer than I have and are just waiting. Here's the dope in short concerning this whole deal - first of all at Camp Atterbury I should have been picked out and assigned to an Army organization known as the "New Developments Division". I would then have been sent to Camp Lee, Virginia for my six weeks basic training; at the end of the training I would have been brought here to Fort Myer just as I now have been and then would have been assigned to some job where my education would have been of some use. Well, as I said, the first move should have taken place at Atter-

busy but someone slipped up and I was sent way out to Fort Lewis. What finally happened I don't know, but someone must have been checking my records, found the mistake and ordered me sent here to Fort Myer. So you see when I arrived here on the 28th this Mr. Emerson, who is in charge of assigning us, was completely surprised to see me and I had to explain to him what I was doing here — some stuff!! So now Mr. Emerson (formerly a mechanical engineering instructor at a college in Vermont) is trying to find an assignment for me. Of course, the end of the War has made things pretty complicated and most Army organizations are trying to get rid of men rather than take them on. There is some work going on in the far Pacific area which I could do (Sherman Heuschel's over there now) but they can't figure out a way to cut the red tape to get me there.

So we wait — it's a mess because Marian doesn't know whether to look for a job or not because any day I may be assigned ^{no} telling where but on the other hand there is a possibility I'll be assigned here in Washington or perhaps I'll sit around here and wait for several days or weeks more. We've had quite satisfactory places to stay, but they've cost us much more than they're worth. But that's life in the Army and we'll live through it probably and laugh about it later.

Soon the colleges and schools will be opening and like a retired fire horse I'm anxious to go, but not this year I guess — by next year I hope!

Love,
Dick



MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SAT MORN SEPT 15 '45

Dear Folks,

Its raining here this morning and that interferes with our usual activity involving picking up cigarette butts and match sticks and gum wrappers so I'll got down a few lines. I forgot to bring my regular stationery over now the city has warning so this will have to do.

Well I still know practically nothing about my future - however, I did call Mr. Emerson yesterday and he told me that he had turned me over to the Army Air Forces for duty and that they'll be sending orders through on me one of these days! He indicated that the orders should be coming through soon - sorta expected them today maybe they'll still come, it's early yet.

I have little or no notion what kind of assignment the one with the Air Forces will be nor do I have any notion where it will be. Next to the last time I talked to Mr. Emerson



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MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, D. C.

he asked me if I knew anything about soils - he said the Air forces wanted someone for some sort of a research project on that subject. It sounded sort of good to me so I said yes I think I could handle the thing O.K. (I don't really know anything about soils but I figure I can learn) I suppose the Air Forces are interested in knowing how various kinds of soil affects the building of airfields - for example the nature of the soil affects the rate at which the field would become muddy and the rate at which it would dry out; the nature of the soil would also be important if grading and filling had to be done when the field was being built - some soils are more easily compacted than others.

So much for that - of course my assignment may be an entirely different one than this soils study one - the Army

(3)



MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, D. C.

can change its mind you know!

I'm sure Marian has written to you about her new job. It's quite similar to the one she had at Ft. Lewis - working in an office which hires people to work in the cafeterias in the Govt buildings. She fills out the million and one papers which have to be made out these days - takes the people's finger prints etc. etc. She is paid pretty well and also receives her noon meal free - so it's a good job generally speaking. Don't know what she will do if I'm transferred away from here - Last spring Virginia Houschel wanted Marian to stay on in Washington and live with her - perhaps that'll work out now - Virginia is in Granville now visiting her mother - will be coming back here in a week or two.

Well it's a couple of hours later than when I started this letter and no orders yet - not today now I'm afraid. Our duty is over at noon today I'll probably stay and eat and then go over



(4)

MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, D.C.

To the city to meet Marian

Don't know if the long awaited Tigers-Senators series can go on today or not - the rain still comes down intermittently. Everyone here is pretty excited about the chances of Washington beating out the Tigers for the pennant. Guess every seat has been sold out for a couple of weeks for this series of five games.

Darn glad to hear about the high price of grapes - wouldn't it be nice to have five hundred tons or so to sell at that price? Don't work too hard now harvesting that crop you two!

If we have to finish this off now we'll let you know what's what as soon as we know.

Love

Dick

148th day

Monday Sep 17, 1945

Dear Folks: Washington is getting sideswiped by the Florida hurricane today I guess - at any rate the rain is really coming down by the bucket full and it's not a thunder shower in fact it feels very much like a good old fall rain.

No news yet today about my future - thought I might hear something today but perhaps Monday is not really a good day to expect much to happen - well, can only wait and wonder when it is going to come!

We had a nice day yesterday and the whole thing was unexpected. As we were eating breakfast I happened to look up and there were Catherine and Charlie Carlton - I knew them both at Columbia. Catherine graduated from Deinson and they visited us once in Grauville. Charlie works for the U.S. Geological Survey - has been in Alabama for almost five years and is here in Washington doing some office work. However, he's quitting the Survey and is taking a teaching job at the St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York - it's a small college similar to Deinson.

Well we talked to the Carltons for a long time while eating breakfast and then since Charlie had never seen Mt. Vernon we decided to drive down there. Spent most of the day that way but on the way back we stopped in at the very new modern and magnificent Washington Municipal Airport to watch the planes come and go - had a nice dinner there.

and then drove on into the city.

Charlie tells me that some of the other Columbia people are at the Survey and we're all going to try to get together - hope I'll still around here when the time comes.

Looks like Congress and the Army are going to have a knock down fight over the matter of demobilization and drafting 18 year olds, doesn't it? The Army is going to find out they're not running the country any longer. However, as I analyze it I'm going to be lucky to be out a year from now no matter what happens - right at the moment I'm in about the worst possible position as far as getting a discharge is concerned - not old enough, no points to speak of no children etc. etc. ! ^{However} Am still clinging to the idea that I might be out soon enough to start teaching again next fall - it seems a long way off now.

There's no other news so I guess I'd better call this all for this time.

So long, folks

Love

Dick and Marian

September 22, 1945
So. Post, Ft. Myer, Va.

153rd day

Dear folks,

We were certainly pleased to receive your letter yesterday - we hadn't had a word from Michigan for several days. Marian is wondering if something could have happened to her Grandmother which was keeping Mother busy from writing - maybe we'll hear from Yps. today.

Things go on here in about the same way. We're getting pretty fed up just waiting - never knowing when something is going to happen or what it's going to happen gets pretty exasperating. If we had a way of knowing whether I'm to stay here in Washington we could make some move toward trying to find an apartment but as it is all we can do is hang onto our dreary little room and wait - will be four weeks this coming Tuesday!

As Marian said on the card she wrote last night I'm making a struggle for a discharge. I heard that one of the educational organizations had advised the various colleges that the Army would consider applications for discharge from former teachers if the applications were accompanied by letters from the institution stating the nature and importance of the teacher's work. I wrote at once to Pres. Brown and Prof. Wright and asked them to investigate the matter and send me the letters so I can make the application at once. I'm certain that Prof. Wright will do all he can because he's very anxious to have me back at Denison by February so that he can take the semester off as he planned to do before I was drafted. I think Pres. Brown will cooperate too. However, how the

Army will react is an entirely different question. I really don't think there's a chance in a million that it will go through but it is worth a try! Boy, wouldn't it be wonderful though - so wonderful I don't dare think of it!

So the Dekwares are about ready to pick - how much are they going to bring this year? Ought to be quite a lot if Concords are slated to bring over a hundred per ton. Golly, I wish we could be there at the farm with you for the next month!

Had a nice time Wednesday night at the Camerons - had dinner with the Cartsons first then the four of us drove out to the Camerons' very nice apartment in Virginia. Had a great time talking over old times. We also had a telephone call from the Ralph Millers, last night but we may not see them, as they were leaving town again today for a week - they were staying at Sherman and Virginia's apartment. Virginia is due back in to town Tuesday they told us. The rent on our room is up on Monday we may telegraph Virginia to see if we could stay with her Tuesday night if we're still here.

Guess that's all for now — write to us because our's is a lonesome life these days!

Love,

Jack & Marian



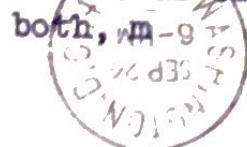
TWA's Giant Constellation

Designed originally as a luxurious coast-to-coast passenger transport for Transcontinental & Western Air, Inc., the Lockheed Constellation flew from Burbank, California to Washington, D. C. in 6 hours and 58 minutes on April 17, 1944, breaking all existing transcontinental transport records.

Alternating at its controls were Howard Hughes and Jack Frye, President of TWA. At Washington, the revolutionary craft was turned over to the Army for a soldiering job. Under the Army designation of C-69, the Constellation is expected to be used to carry men and materiel to the war fronts, and provide swift and comfortable accommodations for the wounded on return missions. Jack Frye reported that the plane "flew like a dream" during the entire transcontinental crossing. The giant craft averaged more than 330 miles per hour—using only normal cruising power.

Dear Mom and Dad,

We met a couple from Columbia at breakfast yesterday morning - he works for the Survey and is in Washington for two weeks making some reports, and we happened to run into them at breakfast! Spent the day with them - went to see Mt. Vernon, and then stopped at the Airport and watched the planes come in for about two hours, and then had supper on the observation balcony. There is still no news about Dick. I'm at work now and it is just about time to go home so I'm hoping Dick will have some news tonight! I just got so uneasy waiting around I got this pretty good job - making out papers for people that this company hires - I do all the finger printing in person too. Lots of love to you



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SEP 19 1945

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Post Card

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THREE MAIL FOR
WHICH YOU SENT POSTAGE

Mr. and Mrs. John Mahard
Lawton, Michigan

XX



201st day

Pvt. R.H. Mahan, 35985568
9817 Technical Service Unit
Corps of Engineers
Engineer Board
Ft. Belvoir, Virginia

Wright Field
November 9, 1945

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well here I go again — this time to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia (20 miles down Potomac from Washington, D.C.) The three of us, Larry Craig, Ed. Eckland and myself are supposed to leave this afternoon — Ed. and Larry have permission to ride with me — but Larry's wife and child are in Springfield and he'll probably take them to his wife's home in Baltimore by train and Ed. wants to go to New York City tonight to see the men in the office of the Company for which he worked. It will probably turn out that I'll leave here about Monday alone with Georgie and all our barracks bags and then we'll all meet in Washington. We won't know for sure until this afternoon when we have to report in at Belvoir so when we meet in Washington will depend on that.

Marian is going to stay on here in Dayton at least for a while or until I can find out what the "deal" is going to be in Virginia. If it should appear

that it's a somewhat permanent assignment
she'll join me. We had a letter from
Virginia Neuschel saying that she may have
a chance to go to Tokyo on a job for
the Survey so their apartment might
turn out to be available - it's within
driving distance of Belvoir though it's
quite a ways - 15 miles or so!

There was no reaction one way
or another to our leaving the Hydroponics
Unit. I think the officers are convinced
that sooner or later the hydroponics set-up
will collapse so it doesn't matter much
if they lose a few men.

Guess that's about all for now.
Will let you know about new developments.
So long, folks

Love

Dick

Fort Belvoir
Noon, Monday Nov 26 '45

Dear folks:

Still here but trying valiantly to get away and up to Fort Myer. We found out this morning that there were supposed to have been orders waiting for us transferring us to Myer when we arrived but as usual something went wrong somewhere and the orders are held up or lost somewhere along the line. I get so damn disgusted with the way things run in this fool Army that I could scream.

While we were waiting around this morning we, on our own volition, got some more shots. I got three more and Larry got four - don't know what effect they'll have on us but so far we're surviving. Suppose if we hadn't taken it upon ourselves to get this matter out of the way, they'd have forgotten all about it and then we'd have been held up somewhere else.

We haven't been able to find out yet from anyone how much

clothing etc. we're going to be able to take with us, and we don't know who is supposed to issue it.

Our trip from Michigan wasn't bad at all. We stayed just east of Pittsburgh Saturday night. Used the Pennsylvania Turnpike to get across the worst of the hills yesterday and arrived in Washington about 3 o'clock. Went directly to the Miller's and they received us very cordially. Ralph had sent us a very nice post card to Upsi inviting us to stay with them.

Sherm Neuschel is back from Japan and we're going to see them tonight at the Millers - will be glad to talk to Sherm. The Survey wants him to turn right around and go back to Japan on this natural resources survey which they're conducting. Don't think he wants to go very badly though! Virginia would probably go too if he does go!

Well the snow you had in Lawton didn't spread very far.

Dad Heir said there was only a couple of inches at the lake and there is no snow at all this side of the mountains. However I guess the streets had been slippery in Pittsburgh Saturday morning because that night people were driving around with chains on. We had absolutely no trouble though. George worked like a charm - I only hope he takes Marian back to Granville as easily!

We had an awful nice time at the farm - am always sorry we have to leave so soon but perhaps one day we can stay for a long time. This business can't last forever.

Will close now and will write again just as soon as I have any more news.

Don't worry now

Love

Dick.

Pentagon Bldg
Thurs, November 29, 1945

Dear Mother and Dad,

Still here - this is the dope at the moment. We're scheduled to leave Washington by train December 5 and will depart by plane for Tokyo on the 9th! We're a little disappointed because we had thought we would fly from here to the coast too and I was certainly looking forward to seeing the country from the air, but it looks like the train at the moment!

So you see there was no hurry to get us back so quickly from our furlough after all. Sorta makes a person mad! We are still stationed at Ft. Belvoir, but they put us on a three day pass from there to come up here to work. The orders transferring us from there to Ft. Myer are working their way through channels but no telling how long it will take for them to make it. We think we'll probably get the weekend off so now Marian and I are trying to decide what to do. She was going to leave tomorrow morning, but, if she would wait until tomorrow night I could leave with her and drive her all the way to Granville by Saturday night and then come back on the train. What to do? What to do?

We have spent the last three days here at the Pentagon familiarizing ourselves with the

various procedures involved in making maps. Yesterday we visited the big plant where the work of preparing the copy and printing the maps is actually done - it was a very interesting day.

Marian and I visited the Heuschels last night. Sherman is going back to Japan after Christmas and Virginia is going with him - they're quite excited about it!

Yesterday Marian managed to get the car into a garage to have the brakes relined - it's to be finished today! That'll be a good job done. Had a flat tire too the other day - a slow leak again.

We're taking the Willers out to dinner tonight - it's little enough to do for them - they've certainly been nice to us!

Oh yes, Prof. Wright is going to let me borrow the camera to take along. It takes colored pictures and film is quite available. I'm glad about it! He's sending it down here in Washington C/O Heuschel's.

That's all for now I guess

Love,

Dick

Tues., December 4, 1945
Pentagon Bldg.

Dear Mother and Dad,

Still here - sitting around waiting to find out when our train leaves for San Francisco. It seems to Larry and me that they've waited a little long to make the reservations, but I suppose they know what they're doing. It will probably work out that we'll not get to California by the 9th but apparently that doesn't matter too much. They don't assign us to a plane definitely until we're actually on the spot and have undergone the necessary processing - processing which involves the weight of our baggage, something regarding rules and regulations while in flight etc. etc.

I'm still staying at the Millers - they're kind enough to put up with me. Just had a thought - do you suppose Mother you could pack three or four jars of Jams and Jellies in a small box and send it to them. I think they'd enjoy them a lot; I've noticed they have jelly almost every morning and its "store" stuff. Their address is: 1308 35th St. N.W. Mr & Mrs Ralph L. Miller Washington D.C.

I'd certainly appreciate your doing this for me!

Well we had a quick trip from here

to Ohio this past weekend. The roads were fine except for about 40 miles as we crossed the highest parts of the plateau. We got in to Granville about 5:30 p.m. Saturday evening and got a room at the Inn so that we could be alone and our own bosses. We visited with the Felts on Saturday night. We both woke up Sunday morning feeling very punk but managed to recover in time to go to church. Visited the Steckles for a couple of hours Sunday afternoon then installed Marian at Louise Wright's. My train left Newark at 6:05 and was on time - it was certainly pretty hard to say goodbye - I felt very sorry for Marian but she was very brave about it - what a marvelous person she is. At Pittsburgh I had to change trains and I managed to obtain an upper berth into Washington - it was expensive but well worth it. Train was on time Monday morning in Washington and Larry and I made connections and got down to Belvoir at 9:10.

After prodigious effort involving much red tape we managed to get away from Belvoir by nightfall yesterday (Monday) This morning we reported in at Ft. Myer and at the same time we reported in we began to "clear" the place. It's all very confusing to everyone concerned. They did manage to pay us though and that pleased me. While