

May 8, 1943

Dear Ones,

We are in Bizerte and Tunis!!  
about to enter Europe! I am at the  
end of my first week and about to  
enter the second!! I feel fine and  
encouraged. In two days of official  
inspection and supervision and  
watchfulness, I have got a grand total  
of no gripes! It may be premature, but, at  
any rate, at the present my standard  
of neatness is adequate. My clothes  
are clean - tonight I pressed a pair of  
pants and a shirt. My only worry is  
that I have lost a little of my belly  
and my pants bunch a little at the  
waist. But it takes 2 weeks to have  
them tailored and in one week will be  
in summer time, out of O.P.'s. so I'd never  
get the repaired pants to wear. I  
think I'll get by. I am doing my  
best.



2  
The second part of study - is also  
coming along fine. We've had two finals  
which I hit! For a person who takes  
intelligent notes and knows how to  
spot the questions, 6 I courses and tests  
are not overburdening so far.

That leaves only drill and marching.  
Tomorrow, Sunday, will be devoted to  
that. A fellow from Oklahoma and  
I are going to yell at each other  
and practice cadences and voice  
commands as well as foot and  
march positions. We got to begin  
the ball starting Monday.

Today, I had to take my  
class <sup>Text</sup> again - damn it all -  
because there was an exam on the  
card which needed it. Of course, I  
was not primed for this means I  
doubt if I came out as high as



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my previous 155. I'm not worried,  
since it's not especially important  
as long as I did fairly well.

Today we had speech class -  
3 minutes extempore prepared talks.  
I was called on and pulled the  
topic "Diet Bombing". I was  
not nervous and I think I  
spoke intelligently and coherently.  
My instruction in speech is also my  
dull instruction, so I really have to  
be on my toes when he's around.  
You just can't let up for a  
second. You have to be ready for  
everything. If you let your mind  
wander, you are lost. That's why  
I want to devote tomorrow to these  
things - sleep, drill, and the N.Y.  
Times. I will try to call you, if  
I can get a clear line through.



I have not explained the  
 small ocs picture, ym, have I?  
 anyway, it's a ~~eight~~<sup>eight</sup> week basic  
 period with 5 weeks of specialized  
 training at the end for a total of 13 weeks.  
 There are washouts in the middle of  
 the 5th + 9th weeks. The picture is  
 based on dull primarily - although out  
 of an 11 hour day, it takes up only 1 hour!  
 The point is that the stress is on  
 discipline and control of a group in  
 instruction and the ability to have beat  
 and be knowbeaters. They put a terrific  
 pressure on ym - always yelling and  
 screaming. That's where ~~composure~~  
 and self-exorcism and self-  
 confidence (without cockiness) <sup>come in.</sup> They  
 try to confuse ym; you have to know  
 your infantile/dull regulations cold and  
 that's all. That will explain why I  
 didn't plan to take Sunday off in



Baltimore.

5.

The mail delivery is fine; your letters, as well as those from all branches of the family, are coming in with delightful regularity. I tell you that I could write letters to the others but since they <sup>letters</sup> mess up your foot lockers and pockets (which can not hold) I tear them up immediately upon reading.

I guess spirit made amends for me anyway.

Thanks for the information - but I thought having mine ended for the U.S. sent. Let me know - I may be able to add it. My questionnaire is almost complete.

This letter will arrive after Mother's Day - but I'm sure I've put up all my talent on the birthday note. I asked the money order but I was told I could not hope to get a wire through for flowers unless I waited in a hopelessly long line.



My thoughts were and are with you @  
mother even if the flowers never got  
beyond the seed stage. I hope I do get  
a call though, tho.

That's about it. Time is going  
very quickly and intensely. Each  
passing day goes into the record book  
and under my belt - nothing, I hope,  
will go over my head. Mental  
alertness + coordination will do the  
trick. I know what to do. It's only  
a matter of doing it.

Love,  
Lumma

Incidentally C. B. is a  
marvelous rht. Gen. Wallace +  
St. M. have marvelous  
reputations.

Love to all.

Regards to Dad.

It's now Sunday.  
Slept well  
feel fine