

OCs May 12, 1943¹.

Dear Ones,

I can't tell you how much the mail I get from you means. Your letters are newsworthy and spicy; they are a swell pickup. So far I still have my one solitary gig but other things aren't going so well. Academics are all right; but I am perpetually tired - for that reason I am not at a high peak of efficiency - and it is next to impossible to get any more than 7 hours of sleep. This would be enough if it weren't for the terrific strain. My Sunday looks even more inviting as a result, as you can imagine. But the real thing that I fall down is still drill. I was called out one morning when the whole platoon stunk, and I stunk worse than everyone. It's enough to heck the spirit of any man.

except the OCS man. He must 2.
take it. I keep my composure, but
at this instance I was asked to explain
an unfamiliar movement. The instructor
really rode me up and down; I didn't
reach down and I am able to laugh about it.
But next time I will know this stuff cold
I'll have too. I have the voice, I have
the speaking experience, I am not
nervous. I am sure of myself - I just
have to be sure of my material. And
believe me it's important. Oull counts
75%; it is what most boys work out
on - you have to be letter perfect & you
have to study it instead of regular
time, that is, on weekends and when you
can. As you can see, all the time I spent
Sunday last was not enough. I am not
letting it get me down but it is something
on my mind all the time. There is
never a let down here. (It is fortunate
that they are in the same boat I am.)

3.
we go into khaki Saturday. The
weather has been hot and muggy with
torrential rains. I'll be glad to get
out of O.P.'s. as for the union - I
haven't room for anything besides the
very smallest travelling kit. If you
can't get a small net (with a cord +
sashes) don't bother. Others in the
barracks have them and it is not
essential.

The deluge of food is over; I got
about 6 packages in the last 3 days!
I have already told you about the swell
mail I am getting.

There is no special news. I just
want to prepare you for the worst. I
think it is best; and I think it bears
repetition. The washout rate around here
is very high. average classes of 250
seldom graduate over 160 or 165. We

are somewhat larger than the usual
class but the final figures will
probably be the same. Also we see the
last class to go through in 13 weeks.
The next class will take 26. So they
will be extra special troops in us.

Results have shown 13 week officers
need more practice & strengthening

I wish you would try to gain the
enthusiasm of our friends and
relatives. So on the safe side we paint
a black picture of failure and about to
be "flunked etc". I'm sure you
understand. I myself am not
discouraged - don't get that idea; I
know I have the stuff. But it is
no disgrace to leave here and there
is no sense in making the picture
a completely bright one when dark
clouds are only over the horizon. I
will just get on the ball. Love,
Sumner.