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May 17, 1943

Dear ones,

yesterday I dashed off wholeness
postcards to Boston. I also wrote letters to
Uncle Rube and to Sonny. I spent the day
as I wanted to - with no tension or strain.
I didn't even shave. I just relaxed. I did
what work I had to do and slept well.
I did manage to get a haircut and read
section 4 of the Times. I also noted the new
bridge rules which would seem to discourage
your weak responses to opening bids, Daddy.
but I'm in no position or condition to discuss
the intricacies of the great game of bridge.
I guess one reason I feel o.k. is that I was
not called on in drill and the instructor -
Lieut Canada, didn't gig me this time. but
tomorrow is another day to prepare for. All

worry about it when it comes around.

We have covered the problem of me + ocs in all its aspects; we are agreed on a diligent yet relaxed approach. We are not creating a pressure by demanding nothing more than my best effort which should be more than good enough. The

only problem remaining then is my impersonal judgment of the ocs setup here as a letter writing material. When we have another break I will outline these sentiments.

(First, however, I received the am. Thank you. I need no scratch paper. I use this just because it's convenient)

Now, about ocs, even after only 2 weeks I can't help but feel that the whole system has been worked out with amazing inefficiency. The fact that the class that started today is

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to be twice as long as this most men
concocted then. and yet the basis of
the set up remain the same. Let me
explain. We are here 13 weeks. We have
8 weeks which cover the entire information -
general and specific - which any officer
must be up on. The last 5 are spent in
technical science work. This is manifestly
inadequate for the requirements. For example,
we covered chemical warfare - which will
probably dominate future war programs - in
exactly 3 days. We got 3 in first aid. All
this with no field demonstrations except
a hour of chemical. As for the last 5
weeks, take the artillery specialist course -
it allows you time to learn only 5
guns. and when you leave here
you are supposed to be able to operate

any advance problem. Now, I will
admit that 13 extra weeks will
put a finish on this surface approach &
get more of a physical engineering. But
what I believe is that the overall O.C.S.
system is wrong. They are right, in the
first place, in that every officer needs to
be grounded in certain things like customs,
first aid, courtesy, chemical warfare,
infantry drill and what have you. But it
is wrong to have each service have its own
system & approach to these. All officer
candidates in all branches of the service
should get the same training in those disciplines,
customs, and subjects which form the required
background. This would also end a great
deal of the inequality of standards among the
O.C.S. schools in the various branches; needless

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to say, each of the OCS's has a reputation for toughness
which leads some to look down on the graduates of the
others. For example - GMS has the reputation of being the
easiest; Ordnance is as much tougher. Anyway - 6 to
8 weeks would cover the instruction and indoctrination
fundamental to becoming an officer - take as much as
necessary. Then, for another 13 weeks or so, the
schools could go off into their specialist tangents. For
example, take Ordnance. a few weeks could meet
general topics like company administration, ~~the~~ ^{and} supply
to Ordnance application. In other words the specialization
imposed on the general foundation - not a hodgepodge
as we have now. Then of course could really cover
the technical detail.

Since I have written this in 10 installments
it is probably a hodge-podge itself. I hope I
have got the idea across to some degree. I've
got to get to bed. Carl Sumner