

May 22, 1943

Dear Ones,

I don't understand why you haven't received my letters. During the last week I must have written twice if not three times. I guess it's because of the long mail pickup around here - but you should get them eventually. Let me know.

Your voice was fine - it is marvelous to hear you speak. It is the high spot of each weekend. I am especially happy that I was able to speak to you all.

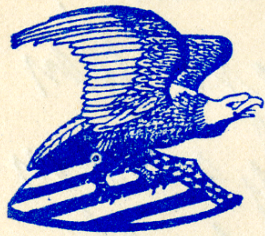
The third week is over. I feel that I really can say that I am in studies. I am able to say that I am working at an even clip - with very few low spots and a couple of high spots. But I can't make predictions - no one knows the impression he is making on the right people, that is, the lieutenants.

As you can see I have next to
no ~~time~~ news to write. As I said
over the phone, I need nothing and
my present arrangements are fine.
We are also agreed that you will
plan to come down here until July
31, the weekend of my graduation.

May 23

I have just got up and will take a
shower as soon as the latrine detail is
finished cleaning. Today I will write a
few letters, review my Infantry Drill,
go to the Service Club Library and clean up the
details of my 10 minute lesson.

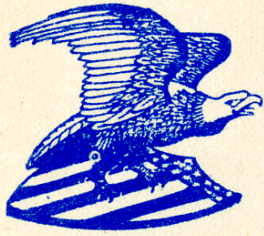
Last night I said that ordnance OCS
was the toughest in the country - that
statement should be qualified since the
physical requirements and strain are not
as tough as in the combat branches of the



service of course, the new 6 months
affair puts new stress on the
physical aspect also. But compared
to quartermaster - which is the only service of
equal size - we are unquestionably tougher.
and in relation to all the other schools, when
you deduct the percentage of washouts due
to physical faults (which, after all, are
unavoidable to a large degree). I think you'll
find Ordnance near or right on the top
when it comes to stiffness.

This morning at 4:30 the boys
who are firing in the rear and those
who are working the targets went out to
the range. I slept blissfully through it all.
I would have volunteered since I enjoy
working the pits but I want to get the
material for my lesson down pat. I think
I am going to talk on "sighting and aiming
adjustments in the Springfield and Duval rifles."

It is a ten minute talk which must
be carefully planned and outlined - and then
the outline followed. It is really a lesson -
therefore teaching aids - like charts, the
blackboard, and demonstrations are
desired. These have to be planned for and
turned in. Then after your instruction
is over you ask check-up questions
to make sure it has gone over. All this
in 10 minutes means real work. Since
all officers are teaching their men in
effect at all times and at all places,
the grade on the 10 minute lesson is
important. I volunteered to give
mine the first day so I could do my
work, get it over with, and then relax.
The class is Saturday morning for 4
hrs and runs for 8 weeks. The first 2
were extemporaneous 3 minute talks.



yesterday was instruction in
the general phases of teaching.
and the next 5 are for the 15 minute
speeches and criticisms of them.

well, I see that the latrine is now
open and I long for the luxury of a
shower. I feel fine, determined to
continue to work hard and do my
best. I don't think I am kidding
myself with overoptimism when I say
that I have the stuff which Sam wants
in his junior officers. I hope the OCS
faculty agrees with me.

Love,

Sumner

I love your newsey, cheery, thoughtful
letters. they are to my day as the
phone call and your voices are to my week.