



ORDNANCE SCHOOL
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
MARYLAND

Dear Ones

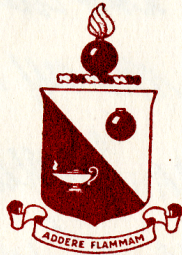
Saturday,

I have just written 4 letters on this new stationery which I finally got around to buying; Uncle Sam, The Shams, York St. and members are the fortunate recipients. So now I will recount this note to you. I hope you received the check which I mailed back the office, enclosed.

D, I face a busy week!! I am barracks leader - I assign all the details; make sure everyone keeps his place clean and neat and does his job; I have to make bed check each night; and pick up the mail twice a day. To top it off I am also the platoon leader on Thursday. Of course, this will take care of all my spare time! This is the climax week of my first 8 weeks - so this week I really have to be on the ball. Incidentally, did I

mention the fact that we have guard duty next weekend and the week after that - so that I won't see the light of day until after graduation. But it's all part of the deal's contract. it is really not too tough - everyone gets it sooner or later.

Speaking of graduation (always assume the big "IF" and save me the trouble of writing it every time - per se, as long as it is not depressing, is a necessary adjunct to the mental balance of a candidate, I still insist) the usual procedure is that the ceremony is over by 10:30 AM on Saturday (the 31st of July). Unless radical procedure changes take place, I will then be given a ten day leave (Please, Mother, "furlough" is for enlisted men; officers get "leave.") so you plan what you like on that basis. I have no specific desires and I don't have the time to plan on such a distant day anyway. At present, the 6 weeks before crossing that bridge seem like a long time.



ORDNANCE SCHOOL
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
MARYLAND

Let me congratulate you, Helen Babey, on your graduation from JGHS and the fine record you left there - you certainly put me to shame. Now relax and really enjoy yourself this summer. I hope we'll be seeing each other around August 1st, or July 31st I should say. - I hope.

I must repeat how much I enjoy your newsworthy letters - they are really something to look forward to. I am really up to date in family and community events.

That leaves our good old major topic of discussion for the end. I just want to say that I think your distraction between uncertainty and pessimism is a nice one. But you make an unreasonable request based on an untrue assumption. You think that because I write to you pessimistically that I am

pessimistic - that is not true. whenever I get
down I just stop and think: I am so much
better off than so many others that what the
hell! But when I write to you I am
painting a picture of what goes on here -
and no one here can deny the atmosphere
of apprehension which the individual must
naturally reflect.

A second point is that, as I said, optimism
is a bad operator here - it is contrary to good
school policy. uncertainty is what dominates
us; it is not really optimism or pessimism,
it is really degrees of uncertainty and certainty.

I can honestly say it is the tension
resulting from uncertainty that is the driving
force of O.C.S. Don't get the idea I am
pessimistic - you can't live under a
pessimistic cloud. I am happy, I am
enjoying a tough and a glorious experience.
Pessimism is a surface manifestation only. I am
sure you understand what I mean.

Good-bye about it for a while -

Love,
Lumney.

OCS T Bernstein
COB Cl. 520 OCS
Bks #1 #1015 APG, Md.



Free

The Bernsteins
184 Bolton St
Portland, Maine