

ORDNANCE SCHOOL
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
MARYLAND

June 19, 1943

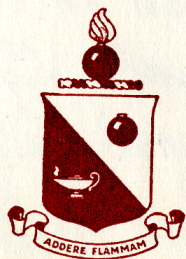
Dear Uncle Sam,

at last some stationery! The shield insignia on these pages is the same as the badge we wear to show that we are OCS men. It is worn on the right breast pocket of the shirt. As you know, most other schools use a plain dark patch with the letters OCS on it - but we are really fancy with our bright colored lamps and bombs - well be even fancier with our shiny bars and the flaming bomb of the ordnance officer! It's only 6 weeks away, as I write this.

I am sorry that our telephone arrangements were unsuccessful; if you ever call between 10 and 10:30 P.M. Aberdeen time I will surely be around. So if you do get the urge, try to get through to me; I'm only sorry that there is so little leeway in the times

that I can be reached. Your letters are certainly happy, & I would love to hear your cheerful ones.

as for me, well, we are approaching the eighth week - another week of "sweat". I don't mind telling you that they keep the pressure on us continually. no comes do you know no washout than another no stays you in the face. I have your two left feet in dull - only with a double intensity; in chill and in the general aspect of military bearing I am afraid I am a pretty red sack. I will admit that my attitude may be a little bit too self-critical but the instructors here give you no grounds for confidence. In my studies I feel I am almost average; I am in a barracks with a swell bunch of fellows and I think I rate highly with most of them. Everything counts - from your background to how you wash your teeth. The wash comes around the 30th of the month - so here we go again to "sweat it out" for ten days. But, as you say, afterwards when I walk around in the aureate glow of gold bars, it will be fun to look back and comment with pride on what I went through.



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after the eighth week, we go into our technical specialty for the last 5. I hope I get into artillery or ammunition. I'll write you more details on the technical phases of my work when I get my teeth sunk into it.

By the way, we are already buying uniforms. We are limited to no tailor-made blues and we have to have two before we leave. This means that all of us are going to depend on the PX - we have the best officer's best exchange in the country here at Aberdeen - for the rest of our stuff although I would have liked my second blues specially tailored also. Nothing can be done about that but I would appreciate your advice as to my needs in khakis and tropicals - how many of each should I have? I will buy the minimum of winter equipment and stock up in the fall on that.

The news from Portland is fine; the folks

are happily settled in the country with aunt Ida
and Jay; and aunt Eliza and Bob ^{are} scheduled to
arrive soon. Incidentally, I think mother is
doing a swell job in getting the cottages rented
considering the wartime problems of transportation
and maintenance.

I spent last Sunday in Baltimore with
uncle Harold; needless to say I was torn
between enjoying seeing him and eating
that luscious steak as the best part of
the weekend. He is in Washington, as you
know, and I will probably see a lot of him
now he gets settled.

I suppose you know that Dave Schaff
is back home; he's done a marvelous job
and deserves the rest. I hope I can get out
into the field now I am graduated from here
and start doing a real job also.

That's about it - please excuse my
spelling, grammar, and poor handwriting.
Get me hear from you soon. Wish me
luck and I'll get by the next big "if"
week -

Love,
Lumma