

Wednesday, April 14/1943  
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Dear ones

What a hectic four days! I qualified on the rifle range as a marksman with 146 (134 is minimum) and today, when we got back we went right out to the anti aircraft range. I received a load of mail from you - including the certificate and the promise of soon arriving letters. I hope some of them really soon. Tonight sometime I have to see Captain Mann about O.C.S. But I have to organize this letter. First your letters

I am getting the Bulletin  
I will write to Norm & Audrey as soon



as I have a chance - I will write  
to thank all my references eventually  
I know nothing about Reserve  
Plans & I just have no time to  
worry about it. I hope Mrs.  
Borman will write. I'll try to  
call her Sunday if we get it off.  
I'll also try to call you. You  
certainly seem to be keeping <sup>very</sup>  
too; I don't know how many  
times I counted your name in  
the Bulletin. I'll take care  
of my bonds soon - push it up  
to \$12. Please tell everyone  
I love them even if I don't write.  
I'll drop the chairman's card; they  
sent me some candy, too.  
I appreciate all you



advice as to my attitude & <sup>3</sup>  
my army career and of course  
will bear it always in mind.  
Uncle Sam is always ~~there~~  
caring with excellent advice.  
I appreciate it all.

I feel fine; my resistance  
is good - I think the army is  
whipping me into shape after all.  
(I hope you can read this.)

I'll keep writing to you  
as faithfully as possible. Please  
just understand when we're  
on the range or on brownie (?)  
(that is, overnight hike) and  
can't write. You, of course,  
have explained your penury on



my mail-miting to aunt Eliza<sup>4</sup>.  
et al.

Welen Babay, I love your  
letters even though you too  
are very busy & they are  
forced to be short.

I haven't got the cashews  
yet. Thanks for sending  
up the cookies. I'll repeat  
my thanks for your complete  
coverage of the recommendation  
situation; I just hope they  
are on their way. as I  
say, I will write to the referees  
directly in thanks. Dave  
Brownstone, included.

I received the clothes  
this evening. Thanks. I'm



all set now.

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O.k. second: on O.C.S.:  
I have absorbed all your advice -  
but I can't lose anything by speaking  
up now & applying. I can always  
apply again and I see no  
reason to pass up an opportunity -  
if they think I'm O.C.S. material  
now, what am I to argue?

anyway, I'm all spick &  
span, dressed up waiting  
for Capt Maxson's call. I'll be  
on the ball, don't worry. Perhaps  
I'll have seen him before I  
finish this letter.

now I can write about the  
range. (I hope I am not



too repetitions in these letters. 6  
you can imagine that speed  
is ~~is~~ of the essence. I will  
take out time Sunday to read  
Time + "the Times" to keep on  
the ball.)

anyway, Sunday at 5, we  
got up, put on our heavy packs,  
ate out of mess gear, and  
walked (marched) the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles  
to the range. (It felt like a  
100 miles.) The tents we lived  
in were small - 8 people. I  
had a swell hunch and the best  
command of my platoon, so I had  
an advantage, sort of. It was  
sort of like scouting - cots +



a dirt floor, a small stove and  
a candle. We ~~we got better~~  
slept between on 2 blankets  
+ comforter + shelter half +  
raincoat - all of which we  
carried plus overcoats, toilet  
articles, 12 change of underwear.  
I felt like the "man with the hoe".  
anyway, we had to sweep out  
the tent, dirt floor and all, clean  
rifles, and keep the wood clean +  
neat all the time.

I was order no 1; that is,  
shot first. In practice we had  
10 shots prone, 2 sitting 3 kneeling,  
5 standing, 10 rapid fire sitting  
+ 10 ~~fire~~ rapid fire kneeling. The  
first 20 well slow fire) my



scenes were: 45, 23, 9<sup>8</sup>(!)  
41, and 19(!) for a total of 137.

the next day, for the record,  
we had no puns instead had  
5 sitting, 5 kneeling, + 10  
standing slow fire. my

scenes were 14, 18, 30, 44,  
40 which I believe equals

146. The gun with the  
supporting sling has almost  
no kick and we only had  
to get used to the noise.

when we weren't shooting  
we were on our toes in the

pits keeping the targets going  
& seeing for other companies.

Valer got 2 hours of KP on  
two separate evenings. 2 days



of intermittent rain kept us  
on the range an extra half  
day. We are now back on  
schedule. You now know  
why I couldn't write. We  
were up before dawn & shot  
till sunset & the tents &  
latrines were dark & cold, but  
I did appreciate getting your  
cheerful letters.

I'll finish later.

Well: the mail has come  
but first - I've seen Capt.

Mason. Of course, I was a

little nervous. You can imagine  
the stiff military atmosphere.



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It was a that snappy  
guy. I think I made a  
favorable impression - only no  
on two more - my appearance  
was good. No predictions,  
no plans. Oh, yes, please  
tell me I am applying  
for OCS etc. The want to  
avoid embarrassment is clear.

O.K. I got swell letters  
from Aunt Eth, the aunts,  
Catherine and Bob Bernstein  
as well as you. I will try to  
answer - that's the most  
I can do - cards probably. I still  
write to Uncle Archie and



11  
a million others.

Nelen Babey. I think the  
Rudy Saffner. Jeannine Inwell  
coming as a pair. I know  
Rudy very well - he was in  
Troop 69 and Camp Heads  
with me. I hope they're  
happy but they certainly  
are contrasting personalities.

I got the Wang, Sadler,  
De Wolfe letters, they are fine.  
I hope Wiggins & Owen come through  
soon.

Glad to hear the marvelous  
reports on Grandma.

Good luck on your case, Daddy.



your doing marvelously on the 12  
campaigns.

O.k. Lights out in 10  
minutes + I've got plenty  
to do.

Love,  
Jimmy

I just haven't the time to  
~~re-read~~ re-read this letter.  
I hope it's o.k.