

April 23, 1943 - 1.

Dear Ones,

If I'm not wrong, today is Shakespeare's birthday.
(also it is the natal day of Shirley Temple.) all of
which shows I am striving to keep mentally awake.
I'm going to start reading again and get on the ball.
I have just increased my bond purchases to \$12.50 -
that means you will get a \$50 bond every three
months. If I go to OCS I get a corporal's rating
and \$66 month, but I imagine my extra expenses
will eat it up.

Today is the last day of basic training - my
last day in COC of the 8th officially - but, I repeat,
my old address still applies. I am writing this
letter because I am missing a period of training
films.

I also want to renew my present status. apparently,
out of the original 70, 15 passed their OCS
interviews and were physically fit. Remember we

2.
have not been told that we passed at all - but we
assume that our separation from everybody else means
confirmation. anyway 11 of us (the other 4 will
move soon) are quartered and fed in a truck-
driving company. we have been told nothing
except that we will probably be getting details
until we are called to fill up a new OCS course.
These details are guard, Prison chases and the
like. My bunch in the new platoon are
pretty good guys but it is always hard to ad-
just yourself to a new group; also we are in
a position of being different from everyone
else and not at all permanent. all in all,
however things look bright. I couldn't ask
for a more promising situation; but for the sake
of all concerned let's keep everything under
our hats until all the details are confirmed. I
have been trying to call you like mad, but
every night I fail to get the call through. But
I'll still try.

3.

of the 15 chosen soldiers 6 from our barracks were taken. That meant that 5 or 6 other ERC boys were seemingly disappointed - but the grade was tough and we must have been under a quota. Of the lucky six, 2 had years and years of ROTC, 1 was from MIT, 1 ~~was~~ from Syracuse, 1 from New Hampshire, and 1 from Harvard - me. There are 3 other boys who were in the hospital and still have a chance.

Today a lot of other boys are going out - nobody knows where. Our basic training company will be all broken up by Sunday.

We went over the obstacle course this morning. After the morning we have inspection, and this afternoon and evening we have a night manœuvre - a lot of fun, simulating a battle problem of offensive and defensive action.

My mail-to-be-answered dept is reaching gigantic proportions - I need a secretary. I hope I get Sunday off - but I may be on guard. From now on - no more sweating, no mopequizing.

4.

but plenty of work and cheerfulness for
little Sumner.

all. I'll keep you posted. Love and regards to
all.

Love
Sumner