



Friday, March 19

1943

Dear Ones,

we are confined to company quarters so that I couldn't phone and so that I can't buy stamps (for airmail) and I decided that a telegram was decidedly unsatisfactory - as a result, this letter. We are at Camp Lee in Virginia; the nearest town is Petersburg, the nearest city is Richmond, but both are a good way from here - 20 minutes' and about an hour's trip respectively. If you have any contacts, let me and them know. I don't know how or when we can get away from camp. My address is for Company C in the 8th Quartermaster Training Regiment in barracks ~~4th Platoon~~ T-733. As you see, I did get the QM assignment. We left Devens on Thursday, waited around, and then rode 24 solid hours until we got here at 4:00 P.M. today. We stopped a million times; the night was pretty rough - in the coaches! we ate three meals. Our unit was to Albany and then down through the night and we caught glimpses of Washington, D.C., this morning. At no time were we allowed to leave the cars. Now in Virginia we also got our first glimpses of the Negro and poor white.

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problems. at any rate, here we are, fairly isolated at the moment; I am not with any of my closest friends - in fact no one I really know before is here in the QMC. One Hawaiian boy, Johnny Beimas, is beside me in the barracks, but the others are split up with the other companies. The result is that I am now facing the readjustment, which was not necessary at O'Connell. I am afraid of loneliness and boredom - but I can't really tell until after we get started in the first 6 weeks which comprise the basic military problems of marching, gun handling, etc. I sort of feel alone here, but I hope to make new friends and to keep up interesting work and thought. I am not so much afraid of the hard work and the long hours of army living ~~but~~ as the many serious doubts which may hang heavy. At present, I still can't see myself in my living hours as going the way of many soldiers. My hope is to keep mentally awake and stick up real friendships. If I seem a little down in the month, you must realize that I have



been here not even an hour and a half. My letters in a week or two will convey a truer impression - perhaps the solution to the problems which seem to face me now.

Our barracks are fine. The facilities are right in the building. As for myself and the ditty - here is the ditty: we have a minimum of 13 weeks here, I guess. The first 6 are spent marching et. al; the latter 6 or 7 is more specialized Q. M. work. I assume that I am then eligible for O.C.S. You can rest assured I will do my best in all my efforts. It's pretty hard to say anything else, let alone anything definite, at this early date. I won't start writing to the rest of the family and friends until next week. I think I got most of your mail at Owens, as well as a couple of notes from you H. which I answered.

First meal was fine; met some veterans of 6 weeks, clean-cut, intelligent fellows

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waiting to go to O.C.S. The process may be
quicker than I think to those stripes or those
gold bars. I guess we get explanatory lectures
tonight. (With a good meal in me, I feel
better and more optimistic already.) They
also said that you can leave camp only
over Saturday night and can go no further
than Richmond - so look up your friends
there. I'll look up the schedules of transportation
into town. They also say that Co C is a
swell unit with swell officers and non-
coms. As far as good!

What about wires it. I'll try to
phone you soon and will write airmail
after this. The important thing is that
I am well and happy. Let me hear
from you (as if I had to say that!)

Don't
Lumley

4th Platoon
Co C. in 8 QMTR. T-733
Camp Dec, Virginia.