



CAMP LEE  
VIRGINIA

March 31, 1943

Dear One,

I'll try to start a letter now - before 7 in the morning - but I'll be very surprised if I get to finish it before 9 tonight. I feel well; the last traces of my cold are disappearing and my blisters are well on the mend. As you know I can officially tell you nothing about our basic except that it is tough and each day is very tiring. My attitude is at last the right one, I think. I have just stopped thinking of course everybody gapes over the lack of free time, but my viewpoint is that the time keeps passing and I just do everything as we go along the best I can. The quicker the days disappear the better. Basic will be over before we know it. (It is now 1:45 in the afternoon. I



received your letter. I have written cards to the  
people in Richmond. Thank you for being my  
soul secretary and explaining to the class why  
I write only occasionally if at all. (It is  
now 8:30 - as here we are) Tonight I have had  
to wait quite a big period of time dodging  
the corporal. The grave-laborer around the  
mess hall had to be dug up and my  
back just didn't feel in the mood.  
Since everyone else is writing home the  
facts I guess I can outline no basic  
topics - Infantry drill and tactics,  
military law, courtesy, and discipline,  
first aid, defense against mechanized  
air, and gas attack. We have been  
issued rifles but have not been taken  
on the range yet. I am becoming  
quite experienced in making a pack,  
cleaning a rifle, not to mention





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sweeping and mopping the floor and making the bed. They are fanatically insistent on clean quarters and they talk a lot about personal cleanliness but the last suffers. During the day we just don't have time to wash our hands during the day. Shaving every night has to be squeezed in but showers are often sacrificed to cleaning a gun. I am getting more used to our system of eating, most of the fellows are learning the advantage of cooperation. The period of sleep, no matter how troubled by visions of screaming corporals, is still the most pleasant part of the 24 hours.



I will draw about \$30 pay Saturday.  
I take it I lose \$6.50 on bonds and \$13 for  
a insurance installment so that \$30 actually  
seems high. I still think I'll push my bonds  
up to \$40 a month since I can never use  
over \$30 in 30 days, and I still have your  
\$25 money order uncashed. I hope you  
have cancelled the daily paper. It was a  
nice idea but I can never read it - is please  
have it cancelled. I have received all  
your mail - I appreciate even W. B.'s jokes  
album - please keep it coming. It gives  
my day one or two bright spots. I guess  
that campaign goal will give you more  
two bright spots of hard work. I certainly  
hope you go over the top. About my shoes,  
the rain and damp at Stevens spoiled  
them - I will ~~throw~~ <sup>THROW</sup> them away when  
they arrive - using the shoe ties to  
preserve them.

Now about the Richmond trip. It  
takes about 1/2 hour by bus to Petersburg.





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I left around 12:30 at noon Sunday.  
at Petersburg I caught the bus (99¢ round  
trip) for Richmond. I arrived at 1:45 and  
called Mrs. B. The trolleybus ride to her  
home took 45 minutes. She received me  
warmly; the home was full of grandchildren  
and children. I had a snack and felt  
right at home. She then drove me to  
the Saleckis. (GALESKI). Barbara G. is  
a high school senior, very pleasant  
appearance and very intelligent. She  
had a bunch of friends there but they  
soon left. We played ping-pong,  
listened to the Sunday afternoon radio  
music and then I called you up.  
Barbara and her mother were ended but  
I left before supper, took a snack at



th. bus depot and was back at camp  
before 8. It was a very pleasant  
day - the home atmosphere and the  
phone call made me feel marvelous  
as you can imagine.

That covers things. I hope I have  
answered all your questions - and  
that you can read these letters.

Int.  
Summer