March 31, 1943

Dear [Name],

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 tiring and each day is very tiring. My attitude is at last the right one, I think. I have just stopped thinking of how 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.)
received your letter. I have written cards to the
people in Richmond. Thank you for being my
and1 secretary and explaining to the chemist
I visit only occasionally if at all.) (It is
now 9:30 - as here we are) Tonight I have had
to work quite a bit of time doing the
exams. The grades, laws around the
meat ball had to be dug up and my
back just didn't like it. In the word
sine the everyone else is writing how the
facts. I guess I can outline my basic
for infantry drill and tactics,
military law, courtesy, and discipline,
first aid, defense against nothing,
tire, and gas attack. We have been
issued rubber but have not been taken
on the range yet. I am becoming
quite experienced in making a pack,
cleaning a rifle, not to mention
Sweeping and mopping the floor and making the bed. They are fanatically insistent on clean barracks and they talk a lot about general cleanliness but the last word. During the day we just don't have time to wash our hands during the day. During every night has to be squeezed in but sometimes we often sacrifice to cleaning a gaz.

I am getting more used to this system of eating, most of the fellows are leaning to advantage of cooperation. The period of sleep, no matter how limited by victims of smoking epidemic, is still the most pleasant part of the day.
I will draw about $20 pay Saturday. I take it I lose 50c in bonds and 75c for insurance installment so that $20 actually seems high. I still think I'll push my books up to $15 a month since I can never use over $35 in 30 days and I still have your $25 money order hanging. I hope you have cancelled the daily paper. I know morning but I can never read it. I please have it cancelled. I have received all your mail. I appreciate even the 5c joke. Tell Ann please keep it coming. It gives my day one or two bright spots. I guess that campaign will still give you those two bright spots of hard work. I certainly hope you get very top about my shoes the rain and damp at Pecos kept them - I will throw them away except the paper using the shoe tines to preserve them.

Now about the Richmond trip. It took about 15 hours last Saturday.
I left around 12:30 at noon Sunday. At Petersburg I caught the bus (99¢ round trip) to Richmond. I arrived at 1:45 and called Mr. B. The trolleybus ride to his house took 45 minutes. He received me warmly. The house was full of grandchildren and children. I had a drink and felt right at home. He then drove me to the Galeksis' (Galeski). Barbara C. 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 kind. But I left before supper, took a snack at
the ice depot and was back at work before 8. It was a very pleasant day - the fine 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.

Yours,

Sumner