

March 22, 1943

Dear Sumner:

Your letter, every word of which Mother read me over the 'phone, was heartening. The lonesome moments we understand but we know that soon they will wear off and that you will take your tasks in stride and with verve. I will never forget the Sunday, the first Sunday, when we went to Camp Hinds to visit you. You sure were a lonesome pup when we first greeted each other. You looked as though you had lost all your friends and that you were alone by yourself. It did not take long, however, for you to become acclimated and to snap out of the difficult period of transition. It is the same now. In a week or two you will be a hardened veteran.

Boredom, also, you will overcome, but that may take you a little longer, because you are not the kind that can find relaxation in just this thing or that. Your proud father states as a fact that your superior intelligence and finer sensibilities need more than rough and tumble or sordid types of relaxation. Do you want books? I will be glad and happy to send you anything you would like to read in your spare moments. As for company in your outfit, I am sure that you will soon find those to whom you will be attracted, for this army contains within it the best of American youth. As for social companionship outside of the camp, I am sure that Mother will arrange it with her friends in Richmond. Leave that to Mother and you will soon be invited to more than one home where you will spend happy hours.

Don Sears is in Miami Beach and when I read that notice in the Telegram I was hoping that you would get there also, for I do not know any one who would be happier to see you than your grandparents. I do not know how far Camp Lee is from Florida; but if it is not too far you may get a chance to spend a day there.

Well, we will soon be talking about your getting a furlough and coming here for a few days. In the meantime don't hesitate to use the 'phone whenever the mood seizes you and always bear in mind that we want to do everything to make you happy and cheerful.

You were a good camper, you knew how to make the most out of your college life, and you will get the utmost out of your army life.

Cheerio

Affectionately,