

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 06/18/2020

[*Odd pages are numbered in the top right corners*]

May 15,
1943

Dear Ones,

Oh, my gosh - what did I do? I am being deluged with mail. I quote, "why are you so tense," "Blue funk," "nightmares." Who's tense, whose [*sic*] in a blue funk, who has nightmares? I am as relaxed as any man in OCS; as for cheerfulness, everyone here is in fine fettle. Certainly, you find an undercurrent of washout talk - that is a school policy. They are not doing their job if we are not under pressure. [Sigs] are "bobkes" as we say. The reason I don't write "gleeful, [devilish] accounts" of my gigs is because I don't get them. The only one I got was because my nameplate was a 1/4 inch off line. I think its [*sic*] quite funny - I laughed it off - I can't imagine where you got the "blue funk" idea. No one

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could be more at ease than I. I am at ears in class, public speaking holds no terrors. The only thing that really bothers me - besides the tension our instructor puts on us in drill - is that I must rest my eyes when off duty. Incidentally, for emphasis, I think of drill only when I have to and when I am studying for it, it does not prey on my mind at all. As for formal relaxation - I don't have a weekend off post for 3 more weekends - since we go to the rifle range. So I can't go to Baltimore (which I will do when I get a chance) for 4 weeks, that is, after the first wash - when,

if I am still here, I'll feel like getting away. I hope that this clears up the picture. I think I know where the confusion is, I have been trying to put over to you the fact that I am not

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thinking in terms of washing out but that when I do, I am thinking about you, not me. I am very proud to be here, but I am aware of the pitfalls; I am not in dread fear - I can take all the hurdles they put up. I repeat - everything is being taken in stride by little Sumner. The black side is preparation for you not me. I am more worried about your worrying about me than I am about my fate here. No one could be fairer to me than I am; I always give myself the benefit of the doubt. I am not [-----ing]. I sleep as much as possible - I hope you don't stay up late writing letters to me telling me not to

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worry. Your later letters show that you do appreciate the point I am trying so desperately to put over! (I also hope you can read this.) Well, hell, that's that. I think this matter is closed. I will probably call you before you receive this so it [*sic*] just a summary and supplement. Just don't worry; I'm not worrying. I like long letters, but I fear this last batch is off on the wrong track. Now - the reason the mail bunches up on Tuesday is that all the weekend mail is not picked up until Monday morning. Second - ok on the iron; it should be here soon. 3rd - Please don't plan to come down. I never know when I

may lose a Sunday - you can't plan
around here. Its [*sic*] only 11 more fast-going
weeks. Please be patient. I can wait. I

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don't want to have to worry about
the plans of your coming & whether I will
have that Sunday or not. Also - a one
day visit is just a teaser - you know what
I mean.

4th - no cameras allowed at
Aberdeen. When I graduate - will
use up roll after roll of film.

5th - I'll write some letters
tomorrow to the family.

6th - Your newsy cheerful letters
are grand - I can't repeat that too
much. But H.B. seems to be forgetting me
every now and then. How about some regularity,
Toots - I know you're busy, but just a card
or so, huh? As for you, Daddy; your
long letters are gems of interest. I only
wish I could answer in style.

7th - the news of Uncle Louis is hopeful.

8th - your activities are fine - you
are doing more travelling than ever

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before. You must be supporting the
B & M to Boston!

9.) As for those gigs at the
Bursar's office at school. Have them
sent [*sic*] me the form - or better
still - ~~I will have the C.O. here~~
~~with a letter saying I am a member~~
~~of his organization.~~

I just spoke to you -
needless to say it was swell.

You write to Harvard & get me the
form - o.k. Needless, to say
also - I feel fine; trust in me -
I'm happy.

Love,
Sumner

O.K. its [*sic*] Sunday morning - I feel clean &
fine.

Love,
Don't forget an occasional small food package, please