

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 06/18/2020

May 19, 1943

Dear Ones,

All is well. I received 2 marvelous letters today. Helen Barbara - yours was a gem of news and humor; your efforts as a correspondent and humorist are on an infinitely higher level than your brother's! As for your letter, Daddy, it is impossible for me to compliment your literary efforts; I was just a little disappointed in that you doubted my ease and lack of tension. I can only say that your doubts are completely unfounded - as you know deep down.

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Anyway, I feel fine. I've started work on my ten minute speech. I'll do the mass of work this weekend if nothing goes wrong. I drilled the group this morning. I made one small error, corrected myself, and then rolled on with no comments from our dear instructor. His unsmiling face gave no clue of his verdict on my work - but I do know that I was out in front less than anyone else was today - only a few minutes. As for my regular marching: I have a whole squad of men working to keep me in phase. I'll master this fol-de-rol yet. I can't repeat to myself too often to keep on the ball while I'm marching. It plus drill counts for 75% - so I'm working - not worrying, mind you!

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May 19

Dear Ones,

O.K. if you want stationery, here it is. Boy, has it been hot and I mean hot. The sweat really rolled off me. I took a shower at noon and needed another 5 minutes later. Boy, this is going to be a tough summer!

All is well. No gigs so far this week. School work is fine. I'll get to work on my 10 minute speech this Saturday for a week from Saturday. If you know or can find any good stories - short & funny - about rifles or rifle shooting, I might use one as an introduction - it's not essential however. I haven't been called on for drill. I have to work on that tonight. I have a group of boys trying to keep me on the ball in marching & drill. I am really having it tough. My lack of rhythm is horribly in evidence here and

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will just have to be overcome. I'll do my best.

The other night I had my introductory interview with a Lieut. [Rassich] - a swell fellow who put me at ease and encouraged me. These men always keep up your hope without ever causing confidence.

There is next to no news. I feel fine; I love your mail and I shouldn't be writing to you during study period so - I'll write again soon.

Your loving son and brother,
Sumner.

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I am enclosing some four leaf clovers - or one since I can't find the others.

There is next to no news. The

days are flying by, it's Thursday already! I'll try to write a longer letter over the weekend. If you have any questions about me or about O.C.S. let me know.

At the end of the next week the first phase is over. I am going to drive to an impressive peak and continue for the next 9 at the highest level I can reach (How's that for a pep talk!)

Love,
Sumner