

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 06/14/2020

June 21

Dear Ones,

This letter is not going to be about attitude and theory; it will just be a recounting of fact; however, I will draw some conclusions.

Our platoon now has company drill with a Lieutenant Goodwin; there are 40 men in the platoon. The result is that with 2 or 3 men out in each period, no one should be the company commander - the leader of the drill - more than once, or twice at the most.

However, this last 10 days - starting last Wednesday- have been devoted to check-up; that is, supposedly those doubtful in drill are given the chance to prove themselves. (You have guessed what has happened to me already)- here it is only

Monday and I was called up to be company commander again - my third time since the start but my second time in two days, since I was company commander on Friday also!!

That does not look good. But the point is that I think I am doing well - or at least comparatively well! I do not make serious errors, I am in good voice, and I show presence and intelligent leadership yet he continually calls me out there. I really don't know what to make of it. I am not at all

[Page 2]

nervous - I have been out there so often it is no novelty at all!! To be honest - I don't know what conclusion to draw. But I want you to see the picture as I see it and you can realize what pressure, tension etc. really are on me.

You can also see, I hope, that my attitude towards this second pressure period is much saner that [*sic*] the first one was. I realize what factors are involved but I take worrying and tension in stride.

But I still realize the pitfalls ahead; and I want you to avoid this overoptimism which I feel in your letters and your voices. Make all vacation plans for July 31st on a tentative basis. This will

probably not be the last time I mention this; it should be a footnote to everything.

But the break is over - and all I wanted to do was present to you one of the events that mold my attitude, to explain that attitude to you [*illegible deletion*] so that you can put yourself in my position.

The possibilities - I don't dare say probability - of washout are very, very real.

Love,

Sumner.