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Transcribed by Kara Kralik 06/14/2020

[Letterhead depicts crest and states:]

Ordnance School
Aberdeen Proving Ground
Maryland

June 29, 1943

Dear Ones,

Nothing new has happened; I continue to receive your mail: you hit the nail on the head when you say my "dependency" is for your benefit and is not a true picture of myself! Nothing developed on warfront today; tomorrow is the day, I guess. I will let you know immediately upon my receiving information of my successful leaping of this hurdle; as I said, all indications are now [*illegible*] although they are not definite.

We had a 100 question test on "Artillery [In] General;" today. I hit it for about an 85. It is going to take time for me to get the fine points; I know less than nothing about guns and their mechanisms - I am really going to have to work. I have the stuff, however: I just have to keep on the ball. Things tighten up in these last 4 ½ weeks - in just one month we'll be officers - we have to act like officers. The big pressure may be over - but there is no easy road

[Page 2]

ahead. I'll keep plugging and do the job. There is still tension in the barracks over the Washout (5 boys went before the Company board) when that disappears, things will be able to run smoothly. You know how the spirit of the barracks can affect the individual. If I have a few minutes left, I would like to comment on my general spot & status in the army. I am not "armed up;" I still look upon all these uniforms and guns as not a part of what I'm doing. This is different from just considering the war an interlude in my life. I seem to be surrounded and engulfed by the war and the war

effort and yet to be apart from it. I hope this will change when I become an officer and really start to do a constructive job.

The packages are coming regularly; all is well. Give my best to all. No "July" Readers Digest as yet.

Love,
Sumner.