

JUDMS5\_BernsteinS\_06241943tr

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 06/14/2020

[*Letter is written on letterhead with crest that reads:*]

ORDNANCE SCHOOL  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND  
MARYLAND

June 24, 1943

Dear Ones,

I must preface this answering letter with a picture of my condition as I write it (which is in itself the reason for its not arriving on time.) Last night we had an air alert for an hour and a half - that was just an hour and a half lost from sleep and study. And I have felt these two losses all day: I have been very tired and in our final in military administration I really did myself an injustice - I probably passed but with not much of a margin; I just didn't hit it. Tomorrow we have crucial tests in depot and supply; I hope I do better. For some reason, I have trouble concentrating and doing my best on these objective tests, after 3 years of college and subjective tests. I guess I got by. And we just finished our floor rating where you have to "stab your buddies." This weekend, of course, I spend on guard duty - another pleasant prospect. All the week I have been squad room leader and today I am platoon leader to boot. You can understand that the pressure of washout makes one a sweaty mess.

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As a result, I want one point clear: I have not passed the biggest hurdle - I will not have cleared it until Thursday. You have no basis for finding "confidence" in my letters. I am really uncertain. Please do not become overconfident - I don't want to build you up for a letdown - I'd rather break you down for an uplift of success. You know what I mean; if a mishap occurred, by chance, your disappointment would bother me more than my own. All this is a prelude to my anniversary sentiments - under the intense pressure, I am afraid they will be a little more teary than usual. For at no time, have I

longed to be with you at home more than I do now. At no time have I appreciated the blessings of our home more than I do now; I can really stand all the love and affection you have for me. I have said before and can repeat that my home is still the center of my life, my hopes, and my plans. It is with the deepest thankfulness that I reflect on what your anniversary means to us all; to recall all the joy it is to look forward to years of continuing blessings. May God continue to be good to us.

Your loving son and brother,  
Sumner

*[Envelope]*

*[Written on top left of envelope:]*

O.C. S T Bernstein  
Class 52 Co B ORD OCS  
[Baks] #1#1015 APG, Md.

*[Written on top right of envelope:]*

Free

*[Written in center of envelope:]*

The Bernsteins  
184 Bolton St.  
Portland, Maine