

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 07/06/2020

April 23, 1943

Dear Uncle Louis,

Believe it or not I have started to write to you about 3 times; and here it is our last night of basic - and yet I probably won't finish this until tomorrow. So I'll skip preliminaries and tell you the glad news: as far as I know I passed my company, regimental, and post interviews as well as my physical for O.C.S.!! There are about 15 of us who have been separated from the rest of the company - which is breaking up anyway - and who are becoming prison chasers and guards - all work of unassigned men. We are supposedly acting corporals. This is the usual procedure taken with men who are waiting to enter an OCS course. Of course, nothing is definite until the actual orders to report come but all the signs are favorable. Just keep your fingers crossed. Just in case anything goes wrong, I would appreciate no publicity - except in the

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very immediate family - of my OCS possibility. I'm sure you understand.

Your information and advice came in handy. The company board was pretty summary - altho important since the opinion of our immediate cadre is obviously a deciding factor; I think I impressed them well. The regimental found me nervous and flubbing the first question. I calmed down, however, and showed them I was on the ball on current events, government officers, and in basic training material. The Post Board found me at my best; my heart was beating but I was calm, collected, and most important unflustered. My voice was strong and clear; my appearance should have been good. I was trying without being too tense. All the questions were the same type as before but two had me confused. Fortunately the way you answer is at least as important as what you say.

I stuck to my guns, answered as intelligently as I could, and, as I said, did not get flustered.

Well, we're off to night manovres [*sic*]. (how do you spell it?)

Love

Sumner