

JUDMS5_05221943tr

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 06/18/2020

[Letter is written on stationery with a blue eagle on an American shield depicted in the top left corner of the front sides]

May 22, 1943

Dear Ones,

I don't understand why you haven't received my letters. During the last week I must have written twice if not three times. I guess it's because of the lousy mail pickup around here - but you should get them eventually - Let me know.

Your voices were fine - it is marvelous to hear you speak - it is the bright spot of each weekend. I am especially happy that I was able to speak to you all.

The third week is over. I feel that I really can say that I am in stride. I am able to say that I am working at an even clip - with very few low spots and a couple of high spots. But I can't make predictions - no one knows the impression he is making on the right people, that is, the lieutenants.

[Page 2]

As you can see I have next to no *[illegible deletion]* news to write. As I said over the phone, I need nothing and our present arrangements are fine. We are also agreed that you won't plan to come down here until July 31, the weekend of my graduation.

May 23

I have just got up and will take a shower as soon as the latrine detail is finished cleaning. Today I will write a few letters, review my Infantry Drill, got to the Service Club Library and clean up the details of my 10 minute lesson.

Last night I said that Ordnance OCS was the toughest in the country - that statement should be qualified since the physical requirements and strain are not as tough as in the combat branches of the

[Page 3]

service. Of course, the new 6 months affair puts new stress on the physical aspect also. But compared to quartermaster - which is the only service of equal size - we are unquestionably tougher. And in relation to all the other schools, when you deduct the percentage of washouts due to physical faults (which after all, are unavoidable to a large degree), I think you'll find Ordnance near or right on the top when it comes to stiffness.

This morning at 4:30 the boys who are firing for the record and those who are working the targets went out to the range. I slept blissfully through it all. I would have volunteered since I enjoy working the pits but I want to get the material for my lesson down pat. I think I am going to talk on "sighting and aiming adjustments in the Springhill and [*illegible*] rifles."

[Page 4]

It is a ten minute talk which must be carefully planned and outlined - and then the outline followed. It is really a lesson - therefor teaching aids - like charts, the blackboard, and demonstrations are desired. These have to be planned for and timed in. Then after your instruction is over, you ask check-up questions to make sure it has gone over. All this in 10 minutes means real work. Since all officers are teaching their men in effect at all times and at all places, the grade on the 10 minute lesson is

important. I volunteered to give mine the first day so I could do my work, get it over with, and then relax. The class in [*sic*] Saturday morning for 4 hrs and runs for 8 weeks. The first 2 were extemporaneous 3 minute talks;

[*Page 5*]

yesterday was instruction in the general phases of teaching. And the next 5 are for the 10 minute speeches and criticisms of them. Well, I see that the latrine is now open and I long for the luxury of a shower. I feel fine, determined to continue to work hard and do my best. I don't think I am kidding myself with overoptimism when I say that I have the stuff Uncle Sam wants in his junior officers. I hope the OCS faculty agrees with me.

Love,
Sumner

I love your newsy, cheesy, thoughtful letters. They are to my day as the phone call and your voices are to my week.