

Fort Bragg, N.C.
Friday, 31, 1941

Jo.

We have not been assigned anything to do yet. We have nothing to do just ^{to lie} lay around. We can't unpack or get settled because we might get moved from one moment to another. We haven't been assigned any regular sleeping quarters either. The first two nights we slept without any blankets. Well! it was cold too. We ~~like~~ ^{just about} froze.

You see, the old men are all out on maneuvers in South Carolina so there is hardly anyone around besides the new men. We are to go on these maneuvers Sunday, but it isn't certain yet. We are eating out of mess kits, standing in line for our turn, and as I said before, it is cold so that in the morning we ~~like~~ ^{just about} freeze.

Did you get my package? I'm sure sorry I ever (~~took~~) the pictures. I don't know what ever made me take the darn things. I sure wish I had spent the money on something else. The pictures I'm talking about are the ones I sent to you just before we were sent away from Camp Walters. Keep them for me though.

I'm awfully worried about

the folks I haven't heard from them in
ages. Is there something wrong? I sure wish
I hadn't been sent so far away I'd try to
go home. You write to me soon as you
read this letter and let me know what
the trouble is. I'm awfully worried.

I'm sending you as near to an
address as I can get, because no telling how
long we will be here without getting to our
regular companies; and being able to give you
a full address. Be sure to have a return
address on all mail and don't send anything
of any value. Also soon as I go to maneuvers
I will send you another address ~~and~~ I want
you to write again soon as you receive that.
Because I may not get the mail at this
present address. You see rumors have it
that soon as maneuvers ^{are over} (Nov. 15 or 30) we are
being sent to either Maryland or Wyoming.
I hope it is Wyoming, but doubt it very
much.

Whenever you write to Josephine
tell her "hello", also tell her that her
brother is very lucky in not getting sent
to the army. It isn't any fun at all
and it is ^{not} one tenth like the magazines
and papers picture it. It's plenty tough
and getting tougher all the time for the
individual soldier. Tell her to thank

her lucky stars that they turned her brother down. Soldiers in most places are treated worse than dogs which adds to the hardships. After being almost like a prisoners in camp, working hard, taking a lot of abuse, and injusticeness, when he ~~is~~ is fortunate enough to go to town he is looked upon with contempt and treated rough and very unkindly; often times even framed and cheated by store clerks and other people he trades with; and if he kicks about it he is taken in by the M.P.s for drunkenness and disturbing the peace, even if dead sober. Tell Josephine that she is rather fortunate in having her brother rejected. Don't forget to tell her a big hello for me. Also tell her that from that she may get an idea of what I think of this army and army life. The efficiency of the U. S. Army is supposed to be something ~~colossal~~ ^{? spelling} (colossal), from what I've seen and heard ~~from~~ ^{of} it, I often wonder whether a ten year old boy couldn't do a better job of handling ~~it~~ the management.

I'll sort of describe our trip from Camp Walters. It turned out to be quite a tour of the country. We crossed eleven states to get here. I'll name some of the bigger cities we hit, and you may trace them on a map and see what

a roundabout ~~to~~ route they (took) in bringing us here. From Fort Worth we went north to Oklahoma City from there to Kansas City then east to St. Louis, from St. Louis we traveled ~~southwest~~ southeast to Nashville, Tenn. where we again turned south to Atlanta Georgia, then northeast through South Carolina to Fayetteville N.C., it being the nearest city to Fort Bragg. We also crossed part of Kentucky in going from St. Louis to Nashville. ~~to~~

It was daytimes when we crossed the Mississippi and saw some very large Steamboats. I sure wished I had a camera. I think I'll buy one next payday. I was saving my money to go home for Christmas but it seems a though Uncle Sam fixed that for me. We might get to see a lot of the country before this is over with and I'd kind of like to have a camera so I can take some pictures of it. ^{the country} If I don't get sent west I'll also buy me a radio.

Don't you worry about me being a good boy in Nov. I'm always a good boy twelve months of the year. I think I'm being truthful when I say that. Write to me at one maybe you can catch me here before they move us on.

Bits.
General Delivery
A.P.O. #9
Fort Bragg, N.C.

So "Santa" better
be good and leave me
sent west.