



AMERICA ALWAYS

FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

Nov. 14, 1941

Jo.

Being as I have a few spare minutes, I thought I'd write and tell you a little of what the big war games are like through the eyes of a lousy Private.

To start with, I've only got a few sheets of paper and nothing to write on except my knees, so this will be rather poorly written, more than usual. I'm having a devil of a time, I can't press very hard with this pencil because it will go right through the paper.

We are now in what the army calls a "concealed bivouac", that is no tent or set up, no fires are allowed at any time, no lights at night, in other words nothing is placed so that it can be seen from the air. Every few minutes an

airplane flies over and we all have to take cover, that is get under a tree, where we cannot be seen from the air. At the base camp we slept in pup tents and had a comforter so that it wasn't so bad. also had fires.

The old fellows have been out here in the woods since Sept. Water is very scarce so that many times we have to go out with our hands and face. Haven't had a shower for two weeks and laundry facilities are very very poor. On the last problem the water truck was captured so we didn't have any water to even wash our mess kits.

It is cold awfully cold, at night a fellow doesn't get any to much sleep.

During the last problem we didn't contact the enemy, but we sure did an awful lot of walking. The highlight of the problem came on Thursday night when after walking some 26 mi. we ran into some rain, we walked about two hours in the rain, it was

Don't forget  
to put in  
my papers in  
my pockets  
Don't forget  
when she gets to  
mail this.



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ones in the morning. We were soaked and only had a raincoat and <sup>one</sup> blankets to sleep on, and the rain just kept coming down. We didn't get very much rest and then ~~had to~~ get up at five eat breakfast in the rain and do some more walking. I can honestly say that is the most miserable night I have ever spent. My feet felt as though they were going to burst right through the shoes.

It is tough plenty tough. Not so much being out here, but the ~~chaos~~ <sup>chaotiness</sup> of things and many other things a fellow has to take. I haven't as yet met anyone who liked this, there isn't anyone who isn't ready for a discharge. It's not that they work us so hard but just the way things are run.

Even at that I still think it will do us all a lot of good

and I'm not one bit sorry that I'm  
in here, but this isn't a life for  
anyone.

So, if you need any money  
just let me know, I can't send you  
very much but I can help you out.  
Don't hesitate in asking me, I don't  
need any money <sup>while</sup> in here. So if you  
need any money write and I'll send  
you it by ~~return~~ mail. I haven't  
heard from anyone yet since I came  
to Bragg. Mail facilities are very  
poor so that may be the reason. You  
probably won't hear from me again  
until maneuvers are over. Unless you  
write to Co A, 60<sup>th</sup> Inf., A.P.O. #9, I  
won't get your letter until we get  
back to Bragg. So if you haven't  
written to that address, write to  
me at that address as we will  
be out here until Dec 1. That will  
be my address until further notice.

There are a lot of boys from  
Brooklyn and they all talk just like  
the "Dead End Kids." It sure seems funny  
to see them in the flesh and hear  
them talk in that manner. It is



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sure a change from the slow  
drawl of the Texan boys at Walters  
to the machine<sup>gun</sup> like chatter of these  
New Yorkers.

As for a furlough I'm afraid  
that ~~you~~ is no thing doing. There is  
talk that we may get 30 days for  
Christmas, but it is only a rumor. Even  
if we were to get them I won't have  
enough money to go home, so I think  
I'll just wait until I get enough  
money and then try to get a furlough  
later on.

Incidentally Jo, we get  
everything at wholesale price at the  
Post Exchanges, so if you want anything  
I can save you about forty per cent.  
Anything from radios, wrist watches,  
rings, necklaces anything imaginable.  
For instance a radio that sells for  
\$40 anywhere else I can get for 22. Good  
wrist watches that sell for \$46 I can  
get for \$16.50. I'm thinking of getting

me to take a watch and a pocket,  
before I leave the army. It is quite  
a saving at that rate. I may never  
get the chance again.

Excuse the poorly written  
letter, and the dirt dust etc. in it  
but it just can't be helped.

I'll write again soon as  
I get back to Bragg. When we  
get back will have to take a  
handful of dirt with us to put in  
our meals or it won't taste natural.  
Also take some rocks to bed with  
us or we won't be able to sleep.

Every morning when we get  
up the frost is nearly an inch thick.  
Well! Almost anyway! The woods here  
are similiar to those of Colorado except  
that the pines aren't nearly as  
big and it isn't nearly as pretty  
as at home.

I'm sure going to miss  
ice skating a lot. I sure wish I  
were somewhere, where I could go  
ice skating. But I guess it isn't  
possible. Write soon  
Rito