

Fort Bragg, N.C.
April 20, 1942

Go.

I have finished my ^{second} ~~third~~ day of K.P. I'm tired as can be. My feet became sort of soft over the last four weeks that I was inactive.

In case there is a question in your mind concerning my K.P. turn coming around so soon, it is this way, we all have two equal turns in the kitchen. One week we work in the kitchen alone then the next week we are in the dining room. One is just as bad as the other. Both are plenty tough. So you were wrong in supposing that I was being punished for my absence!

Concerning the day I was late I consider myself very lucky in getting off as easy as I did. For all men are being forced to walk sixty miles for every day they are absent. This is in addition to the daily routine. They start their

twenty mile hike at four p.m. and walk until midnight. The next day they just go on as usual. They walk twenty miles every other day until they have finished their punishment. At the present there are ~~twenty~~ ten men from our company being punished. Some were absent fifteen days so you just figure it out for yourself. It isn't fun. I still can't understand why I got off so easy. No, I wasn't broken to twenty one. Although I do think my chances for becoming P.F.C. are all shot. I will remain a Buck Private for the duration.

We are leaving on a maneuver this Sunday and we may not be allowed to write while we are gone. So if you don't hear from me that will be it. The maneuver will last twenty days. I'm not so sure I have to go yet. I may get out of it.

On my ^{return} trip I started by

almost missing the train in Cheyenne. The bus did not leave Denver until 12.50. I no sooner boarded the train and it started to move. Had I been two minutes later I would have missed altogether.

Boy! I was dead tired. I slept from Cheyenne all the way to Chicago. I couldn't sleep on the bus, but boy! did I sleep on the train.

I had four hours in ~~Washington~~ Chicago, so I walked around some. I saw nothing unusual about the place. Just a lot of smoky buildings, dirty streets, and lot of traffic.

Had two hours in Pittsburg so I wandered a little there, too!

We were two hours late getting to Washington, missing the train by ~~a~~ seconds. We ran on the platform just in time to see the tail end of the train moving out. Therefore we had an eleven hour wait in Washington. I befriended

a soldier and we saw the town. We walked and walked until we were both dead tired. We visited the Capitol building. I didn't know what to expect, but I was disappointed with the place. Being dressed in uniform we were allowed into almost every room. I saw nothing unusual.

I was also disappointed in the Smithsonian Institute. However I did find the Natural Arts Museum very interesting. It is a huge affair with all sorts of animal, and ~~the~~ Indian displays. I can't begin to describe the place. Everything is so lifelike. A person can visualize it only by seeing it with his own eyes.

We visited the Art Galleries and I found nothing of interest there. Although someone with a little talent for painting would no doubt find it very interesting.

We went to the downtown district and walked around. What a place! Streets a mile wide and traffic galore. We counted thirteen

street cars in one block all at one corner. Perhaps I'm just a country boy at heart but I prefer to live in a small town away from all the confusion of the bigger places.

We left Washington at 7:00 P.m. arrive at camp at 4:30 the next morning. I didn't sleep any. I cleaned up and reported. I saw the C. O. at eight in the morning. Pounded up all my junk the rest of the day, then Sunday I reported for K. P.

I have written this in 48 minutes flat so you will have to ~~look~~ overlook the scribbling and the jumbled thoughts. I haven't time to read it so you correct the mistakes and make the best of it.

Remember if you don't hear from me for a short time don't worry for we will be on this manuever.

Write soon. Tell the girls Hello! Tell Betty I ate the liver and onions all the way. (But they were good).

Bye now
Pete.