

Fort Bragg, N. C.  
Aug. 1, 1942

Dear Folks

Auntie, I have not overlooked your birthday at all. It is just that we were away from camp on a maneuver. Accompanying this letter you will find a small bill, which I want you to take for a present. I thought of buying and sending you some pillow cases but I'll wait until I go home on furlough again when I will take some with ~~you~~ me.

They have started furloughs again at the head of the list. Fifteen per cent of the company is permitted to be away at once, that is about thirty men. Of course furloughs will be suspended while we are away on maneuvers. We are leaving the 20<sup>th</sup> for six weeks of land maneuvers. Therefore my turn will come some time in Sept. or Oct.

This maneuver we just

returned from, turned out to be the hardest one yet. We were on board a larger ship, which was originally operated by the President Van Buren lines. It was a luxury liner. There are still traces of its luxuries here and there, especially in the officers quarters.

Our water was rationed, so we couldn't even wash our hands except three hours from four until seven in the evening.

I also had my turn at K. P. on the boat. Boy, it was rough! To give you some idea of what we had to do I'll give you a few of the items given to us by the cooks. All the men were fed in one mess hall with no ventilation at all. For one meal the cooks fried 1800 pork chops and there were less than a hundred left. In one day we packed out of the hold 20 sacks of flour, 10 sacks of sugar, 18 sacks of potatoes hundreds of pounds of meat, and many a case of canned goods and fresh fruit. ~~In one~~ All of this was used up daily

Each meal we drank 120 gallons of coffee. From that you can get a small idea of what we had to put up with.

The problems were the same old thing, except that this boat stood out of the water much higher, so it was harder to get in and out of.

The chiggers and mosquitos were so plentiful, dealing us a lot of misery.

It is awfully hot and getting hotter all the time. We are always wet with perspiration, even when we do nothing.

Did you receive the letter I mailed from the boat? Was it censored? It has been well over two weeks since I've heard from you. Of course I'm not worried, for they say that no news is good news, but I sure would like to hear from you.

Is the mine still working every day? Uncle, do you work every day? Incidentally what are you getting a day? I never

did get that straight.

I hope my turn for a furlough comes in Oct. for I'd like to go home during skating season.

I think I've told you of the \$22 allotment I made to Josephine. I want to ask you again, that whenever you need any money for anything just let Josephine know. The money is there for the taking. If when the dependancy case is investigated, she is considered partly dependant, she will receive an additional fifteen dollars from the government.

We will soon have an outdoor dance floor and skating rink. They are putting on the finishing touches now. I'm holding my fingers crossed until I see how crowded the place will be on skating nights.

Our show price has been reduced to fifteen cents, and twelve cents if we ~~buy~~<sup>buy</sup> ten or more tickets. So now we see the latest and best pictures for only fifteen cents.

Of course the seats aren't as comfortable as they could be.

Have you found that it is windy there? Or do you find it calm part of the time? I bet it gets quite warm.

I understand that all the young people at Harris are getting married. Johnny and Lloyd are due to join ~~in~~ on Aug. 11. Of course they might <sup>be</sup> ~~get~~ deferred.

Junior is your bike still in running condition? Or did you have to scrap your tires?

Incidentally, Auntie, I hear Frances has a new baby? What is it a boy or a girl?

I think that this almost covers everything now. How about a letter now and then? I do appreciate your letters, and it doesn't take you very long to write one to me. So write soon

As ever  
Peto

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