

11:25 Am
Sunday

Dear Hon:

I suppose that the choir is bursting forth in song just about now. I wish I were there to hear them.

I was sure disappointed not to get to come home this week-end but it just couldn't be helped. You see, they moved me from the Reception Center Co. B to the Reception Center Casual Detachment. That is where the fellows that work here all the time live. So that meant that I had to try to get my pass out of a group of fellows that were permitted to go out, and all of whom wanted to go. Before, I was with a group of new fellows most of whom had not been here for two weeks and therefore could not go out on pass, and it was easy for us to get out. I'm still doing the same work, just living in another barracks.

I moved Friday morning and was afraid I wasn't going to be able to get out Friday night, but the SGT. I introduced to you at the bus depot in Portland fixed it up for me.

They issued me a locker trunk when I moved but you can't keep very much in it.

As I told you over the phone last night, the dinner out was fine. Gin told all about the trip that she ~~XXXX~~ Thelma, Helen and a couple of others made around the mountain. Gin got poison oak and 27 yellow jacket stings, but then you probably know all about that.

After we had eaten we went on into town to Thelma's place. It is only about four blocks from Don Shotwells place. Well, we sat around and talked until Herman came home from delivering some movie equipment and then we had some slides and movies of the mountain. They were really good and I enjoyed it very much.

About 10:00 Thelma served us some ice cream, Angel food cake, cookies and coffee. I got in about 11:30, but stayed awake most of the night.

2-2-2-2

Didn't have enough covers and fellows were coming in and going out most of the night.

In my new quarters we don't get up until 6:30. Fall out for roll-call at 6:40, after which we are supposed to have some exercises, but which usually seems to consist of marching about 4 blocks then falling out for breakfast. After that we go back and make out beds and clean up around the place. This morning the boys could stay in bed as long as they wanted to and didn't have to clean up or make beds. However, as I had gone to bed right after I talked to you, I got up at 7:30, shaved, had breakfast, read the paper then went to Church at 9:00.

By the way, bring some music with you when you come up next week-end. You may be singing at Church Sunday morning if I can get you over here at 9:00. I asked the Chaplan if you could and he said he would be very glad to have you do it. You can run over the song with the organist Saturday night. If you don't come it will be OK as they can fill in with something. The fellow who is so good on the violin played again this morning. Some fellow sang but he wasn't very good.

After Church I read the paper some more then had dinner at 11:00. It consisted of chicken, peas and carrots, a set salad and a vegetable salad, and apple pie. Not bad and not good. One gets tired of the cooking after about a month of it.

Didn't get my ~~kax~~ cleaning back until Saturday afternoon. It feels good to have some clean clothes. *Friday evening I wore my sun-tan shirt but my trousers were not too clean or too well pressed.

Well, today rounds out four weeks of being in the army. It seems more like four months. I can't say that I like it but there is not much to be done about it. I want to get home once more then I'm going to do something about getting out of Fort Lewis. I'm not doing work

that I want to do and feel that the time I spend here is pretty much wasted. Too much sitting around and doing nothing. I see plenty of things that should be done but it is not up to me to instigate the action to get them done. I've found that you can make yourself unpopular by trying to change things. They seem to work on the old WPA method: Five men to do one job and take as long as you can in doing it as there might be something else for you to do it you get through too soon.

I'm going to walk down to the main post office and mail this letter, and some others that I intend to write, then I'm going to go past the bowling alley and ~~xxx~~ see if they are open. I should do some washing, but still have plenty of clean clothes so will save that job for some evening when I can't find anything else to do. If the bowling alleys are not open I'll go to a show, but it isn't much fun to do things when you don't have anyone to do them with---especially go to shows.

It is a beautiful day up here. Cold and crisp but clear. If you were here we could go for a good long walk--if you had your walking shoes on.

Why don't you write to Gin and see if you could stay with her~~x~~ this next week-end. I could probably go over to DuPont with getting into any trouble,---as long as I was back for bed check at 11:00. Or, you might stay with Marian in Olympia. It is easier to get out here from Olympia than it is from Tacoma. I've~~x~~ got to figure out some way that I can get you over here by 9:00 AM Sunday morning.

I'm over at the office writing this. It is warmer, more quiet, and I can write more with a typewriter, but that is all for now.

Love
Harold