8:00 PM
Thanksgiving

Dear Hon:

Did you eat any turkey today? I've been thinking about you all day, and, wondering whether or not Eileene and Thayle had you out. Was there any school today?

It was just another day for us, except for our party tonight. We got up as usually at 6:00 a.m. We drilled from 8 to 10 and then tried to keep busy until noon. This afternoon we went over to our instruction area and fixed canvas walls around bleacher seats. Guess we will be spending a lot of time over there during the next

six weeks. The boys all say the next six weeks will be plenty tough and that we are in the toughest roughest company (I) in the 12th regiment and that the 4th platoon is supposed to top them all. So far we haven't been split up but the non-coms of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd platoons are still trying to get some of us.

The 1st Sgt. showed up today and the boys really stepped lively when he let loose.

Anyway it is going fine so far and I think I can do O.K. I've lost so much weigh my blouse really fits good now. at least I've lost some fat if not weight.

Finally I get around to the party. We put on our O.D's (we usually eat in fatigues [overalls]) and marched into the mess hall. Instead of cafeteria style we were served family style — after the 1st Sgt said a prayer (not our platoon Sgt.) We had turkey, dressing, corn, peas, spuds, pickles, celery, rolls, candy, pumpkin pie, and were allowed to smoke in the mess hall. The officers and their wives (or somebodies) also ate with us. Then, we had a piano player and an accordian player gave us music and we did some singing. We are trying to get up a quartet here in the barracks.

Yesterday, Wednesday, I did landscaping — ditch digging.

Got a good big blister and some sunburn out of it. But I would rather do that than I would K.P.

The laundry and cleaning situation is still bad around here. We pay $1.50 a month for laundry for 30 pieces a week. That should take care of everything—when we get to start sending it out.

My clothes came through in good shape in the barrack bag, but some of them need dry-cleaning.

Butch, you will probably have all the Christmas shopping to do—as usual. ~~They~~ The way it looks now I'll be lucky if I even get out of camp once between now and Christmas.

At Christmas time we will get Christmas day off—maybe. That maybe is if you are not gigged and have K.P. that day

we will be on the rifle range about that time. I think Christmas is on Saturday and Sunday we go back on the range again. It is tough but there is not much to be done about it.

The Sgt. picked about ten of us for some special detail tomorrow morning. We have to eat early and be ready to go about 6:30. I dont know what it is but it wont be any fun. One thing about it this hard work will help out when the training starts.

I'm still No 1 man in the second squad but we havn't been divided up into regular squads yet

I must close, Hon. I've got two pair of shoes to shine and my mess kit to clean up. I still dont know all my General Orders.

Hon, please dont feel that I wouldn't like to have you

come back here. I'd give about anything I have just to have you here — or even within phone calling distance where I could talk to you every evening. But even if you were here, I wouldn't be able to see you but a few times during the next 6 weeks and you wouldn't like to sit around a strange town doing nothing.

Just remember, Hon, that I love you very, very dearly and want to do everything I can to get this damned war over with — then I'll never go away again — I hope.

Love
Harold.