12th QUARTERMASTER TRAINING REGIMENT
CAMP LEE, VIRGINIA

Dec. 4, 1943
8:00 P.M. Sat.

Dear Audry:

I really hit the jackpot tonight. Two letters from you and one from Mother. Best of all, Hon, was that picture. It came thru in swell shape and is very lovely. So is the subject. I showed it to some of the boys and they said I couldn't be blamed if I went A.W.O.L. to go see you.

Sorry that I haven't been able to write you everyday, but they keep us so dog-gone busy we have to work for an hour after the lights go out.

Today was the big inspection & review. We worked on our equipment until nearly eleven o'clock last night. After a hard day of drill and exercise it is tough to work half the night too. In the two weeks I've been here I haven't seen a show and

have been to the P.X. only three times. Newspaper and magazines are a thing of the past.

This morning we had exercises, a show (Training), drilled, and then came in and spread out our equipment for inspection. Beds had to be made up just a certain way and items placed upon it just a certain manner. Footlockers were arranged just so and rifles had to be cleaned. The inspecting officers came thru about 11:30. They would ~~spo~~ stop and ask questions every once in awhile. You stand at attention, eyes straight ahead, and give the answers. I gave them the right ones. I'm the first person they come past when they come in. My stuff was O.K. Then we fell out in front of the barracks for rifle inspection. Again I'm the first one. The Lieut. grabbed my rifle, look it over and said "Very good." Then I started breathing again.

Then this afternoon we marched out to the field for more instruction.

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This evening at 5 it was a review. We came in about 4:30 and had 15 minutes to change clothes and fall out again.

In the review I'm in the front rank and the whole front line of 16 men gets the position from me as the company comes up to go by the reviewing stand. If I'm wrong there is hell popping. Well, I'm still alive so I guess it was O.K.

At present I'm over at the Service Club but must get back soon and clean up because tomorrow, Sunday, I've got to go over to battalion hdq. to do something — probably sweep the place out and clean it up. I'd like to wash out some <u>dirty</u> clothes and take a shower. We can send laundry out Monday but I've got to have something to last until it gets back.

Oh, yes, Friday we went through classification again to find out where we were going to go after

our basic training. I'm being recommended for classification work itself — which was quite a surpise. That means that after we finish here I will go to technical school for 8 weeks. Some of the boys say the school is at Washington, Penna. at Washington & Jefferson University or somewhere like that. It is supposed to be a swell place and we get good treatment while there. Tablecloths, rooms etc — just like college again. Then we go to a reception center and interview the new fellows as they come in. I'm wondering if there will be any to classify. Tell Graham I'll be looking for him when he comes through. However, all this depends upon how well I do here, and upon my finishing here during this six weeks.

The company commander told us tonight that we had done fine during our first week, but it was going to get tougher during the coming weeks.

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In regard to Christmas lists Audry, I heartily agree with you that we can cut down heavily this year. We just dont have the time or money to buy a lot of presents. You cut down whever and on whomever you want to and it will be O.K. by me. Perhaps some of the people we have bought presents for can be sent cards and some on the card list left out entirely.

As much as I would enjoy having some of your good cookies, dont go to the trouble of making them, Hon. Use the time for sleeping or writing. We cannot keep food in the barracks. That means you pass it around and get rid of it the day you receive it. Too many cockroaches if food is left out.

Do you need the allotment money? If you do, let me know

at once and I will start some action from this end. Eventually you will receive it and that will be pretty nice to have if I suddenly call you and tell you to pack up and start coming. But that can't happen until the middle of Jan. It would make a nice birthday present — having you back here.

Gosh, Hon, its 8:40. I must get going!

Give my regards to Eileene and Thayle and the babies, to Lovelle, Helen and Earl, Pat, Graham and the the baby, the Stings and everybody we know — especially Tom Shannon. Tell them I often think of them but just can't find to write. Also I miss the choir work a lot. But if you were just here, Hon, it wouldn't be half bad.

Love,
Harold.

P.S.
Thanks for the music but I haven't time to do it, Hon. If I do get a chance I'll get some in town.
H.