1:30 P.M. Sunday
Dec. 12, 1943

Dear Audry:

How are you and the kid making out? I do hope it is better and your resting up help you out.

I'm over at the Service Club, along with 2 or 300 others. Nearly every chair and every writing table is occupied. I came over here to get something to eat and also so I'd have a warm place in which to write.

Missed the noon meal because I was at the barber shop then and didn't want to give up my

place in the line. You should see my haircut - a short one and also rough. About like shearing sheep. Long hair is too hard to keep clean and combed - also too hot under a helmet.

This is the first day I've had to myself since I saw you last. While I didn't do anything last Sunday, I was supposed to be on duty and had to stay around the barracks where I could be found.

Got up at 7:30 today - that was a treat. Had a good breakfast and then tried to clean up a bit. Fixed up my laundry for tomorrow and cleaned up a pair of shoes with soap and water.

The furnace in our barracks was on the blink and it was a cold night. We have been freezing all day. The last time I looked it was about 55° in there.

Went on a 3 or 4 mile hike yesterday with full field pack and rifle. They gased us twice while on the march. I got some tear gas in my mask the first time but was O.K. the next. Had my glasses on the first time and couldn't seal my mask. Some of the boys couldn't get their masks on - they had a heck of a time! Three or four had to drop out.

Tomorrow we go over the obstacle course again. The same one I

missed the time before.

That last water hole will be cold tomorrow. Maybe there will be ice thick enough on it to walk across - but I doubt it.

Four of us walked about two miles last night to see a Mae West show - It was terrible.

Then we come back by the service club and had a glass of milk, sandwich, and a piece of cake. Even after all that eating I got on the scales and found I'd lost ten pounds.

Don't expect too much from the waiste line, but it is still coming down - and could come three or four more inches

after I tell you what I had to eat here today for 79 Cents you will think I'm trying to put on weight. The meal consisted of string bean, yams, turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, shredded cabbage and carrot salad, orange juice, and pumpkin pie. All helpings, including the turkey, were very generous. In fact, I couldn't eat all of it! — and only 79¢. Tell Carl about that one.

Nearly forgot. The knee is coming along O.K. It didn't get stiff but is black and blue over a space about the size of my hand. If I don't hit

again it will be alright. Yes, I still have a cold as has everyone else in our outfit. However, mine is coming along nicely and doesn't bother except during double time and when I have to wear a gas mask.

I very definitely will be calling up Christmas Eve, Hon, and will probably start trying to get a hold of you at 7:00 P.M. here which will be around 4:00 P.M. There but it will probably take an hour or so to get the call thru. Don't send any money as I can get a check cashed here if I need it. Do we have any money in the bank?

The weather here is also clear and cold - especially cold. I put on the tops of my winter underwear today and also wore my overcoat over here.

As I have already told you, there isn't much to do but pay the income tax. Uncle Sam seems to insist upon that. I hope those allowance checks are coming through so you won't run short of money. I'll probably have to write a check for $10.00 during the next two weeks - May I?

You might send me some air-mail and spec. del. stamps. I can never get to the Post

office when it is open. They seem to close on Sunday.

Don't seem to think of anything else, Hon. Have I missed anything you wanted to know about?

Oh, yes. On our hike yesterday, during a rest period, a fellow gave us the history of this camp. It was quite a battle field during the civil war and we saw several old cannon and fortifications. The Southern boys say they never lost that war - They just got tired killing off the damn Yankees.

My love to you, Hon.,

Harold.

The F (L) is for the letter L. Not a #1.