5:00 P.M.
Sunday
Jan 2, 1943

Dear Hon:

How is my wandering girl this evening? I imagine you are still wandering. I called Aberdeen about 12:30 and they said you had left at 7:45 for Portland and would be there about 3:00. Pretty soon I'm going to call up and talk to you Hon. I hope your home.

Tried to call you about nine Saturday night but they wouldn't take any more calls.

Not only do I want to talk to you, Hon, but we finally got paid and the money is burning a hole in my pocket — as usual.

I drew the whole sum of $37.36 for my <u>work</u> since Sept. Maybe I've been overpaid at that.

Saturday was one of the hardest days we've had. Went over the landing net with packs, gas mask, and rifle. Try climbing 40 feet up a ladder and forty feet down — then add 40 pounds to your back and you'll get the idea. After that we practiced crawling thru

and under barbed wire and jumping into fox holes. It was muddy and we looked like a bunch of pigs when we finished.

Then came the dearly beloved (XYZ! —) obstacle course again! I made it in good shape.

All of these different things are far apart so we did <u>considerable</u> marching to and from them in the ice and snow. Oh, yes — in between times while waiting for other groups — we drilled! I was really tired last night and glad today was Sunday

Monday we crawl thru some more mud and wire. Only this time with real bullets whizzing overhead and dynamite throwing mud up in our face.

Then comes the worst of all on Tuesday. A 9½ mile hike with full equipment and an overnight bivouac (:) about 3 a. m we will be routed out for a 2 hour forced march. Wednesday is another tough day. Wed. night we have a review in preparation for thurs. examination. Thursday night is the company party which is supposed

to be a beer bust and some party (stagg)

Friday, the last day, we go out and capture a German village under battle conditions. Friday night we have our usual floor show (scrubbing).

Sat. the Quartermaster men will probably be transferred to other regiments here in Camp Lee and we Adjutant General men will sit around and await our orders.

Sunday I'm on K. P. again! I hope most of the men do leave Saturday.

There are all kinds of rumors in regard to

where the A. G. D. men will go. Some say the Penna. school is closed and we'll stay here — I hope not! All we can do is wait and see. As soon as I know I'll either call or wire you, Hon.

Went to communion service this morning and the Church was packed! Instead of passing the trays, we went forward in groups and kneeled at the railing and the Chaplain gave us a wafer and glass. They used real wine!

In regard to the eats, you don't have too much

trouble getting rid of it around here! In fact, I got very little of it myself. Got weighed today and I've lost 17 pounds since coming here. Most of it from the front from the way I have to take up my belt. In addition, I've put on some real muscle.

Don't feel worried about next week because I figure it can't be any worse than Saturday was — and I'm still alive. Things are usually easier than they lead you to believe they are going to be. But bad enough!

We've been out in the cold

wind so much our faces are tanned. Where our helmet straps come down our face and under our chin, there is a white streak where the skin has retained the original color.

What are you going to do with things when you come back? I mean trunks, boxes, dishes, linen Pepper etc.? Probably be best just to leave them at Stangs and pay rent. Be sure to drain the radiator and have the battery taken out of the car. Might be a good idea to store Pepper at a Bates Garage downtown.

Then when you (if you) go back you could write them to have her ready for you when you arrive. Sell her if you can get a good price. Looks as though O.P.A. may set prices on used cars and ration them (Read the paper today!)

Also, it might be better to store other items where they would not have to be moved again or where they can be shipped in case we stay East. It is hard as hell to try and figure out just what to do, ~~but~~ but we should probably plan-

it so as not to put the Stings or Covengtons to too much trouble in case it has to be moved or shipped and we are not there to do it. There is no telling where I'll be after technical school, but if I'm still in the States I want you with me, Hon.

Oh, yes. Bring our bonds with you — we may need them. Pay the box rent up for a year in advance and leave the other papers in it.

Get traveler's checks with the money in the bank you don't need and close

up the bank account.
You've done so darned well with things send I left that I feel foolish telling you all of these things — guess I just want to talk to you, Hon.
Got my pictures back and they are terrible but will send them on to you. Send one to mother and one to dad. I would do it from here but haven't the mailing envelopes to do it with.
Goodbye for now, Hon, and all of my,

Love,
Harold.