

CAMP CROFT
SOUTH CAROLINA

Thurs., April 1
5:45 P.M.

Dear Mom,

I'll have to fall out for retreat any minute now, but I'll start this letter now anyway. Your package arrived today. My cough, thank God, has improved greatly, but I was glad to see your medicine. Altho the candy and cough drops weren't expected, they were very welcome also. I'm counting on them as the medicine to cure up the cough.

Well, retreat & supper chow are over now. Today I got a nice letter from Charlie Katz. I hope I get a chance to answer him soon. But I don't know. Today we were out all morning for gas mask drill, and all this afternoon for dry shooting. I may emphasize that dry. We were out on the parade grounds, and it might just as well have been the Sahara Desert. Cause the sand blew in clouds across the whole countryside. We were out there 5 1/2 hours, and when we came in, ~~our~~ our ears were filled with the

stuff. I guess they were right when they said
we'd be glad to see rain here.

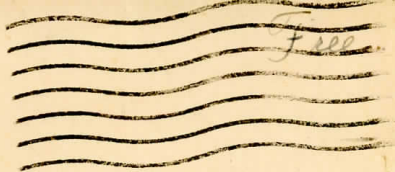
Last night I went over to see how the B's dance
was making out. They had a swell soldier band,
but it ^(the dance) was so crowded I didn't do anything but
watch. Later I went down to the P.X. Bought
some handkerchiefs and wash rags, and had some
ice cream. And so to bed. It was the first
night I went out in a week & a half. Tonight
I won't go out, I guess. I have to clean my rifle
(an hour job), make my bed, take a shower &
wash my hair, and wash some handkerchiefs, socks,
and underwear, 'cause the laundry doesn't
come back ~~from~~ until Monday. I haven't
yet answered the letters I rec'd a week
ago from Callon & Dembenski. Lord knows
when I'll get around to it.

Did I tell you that yesterday we went
through the gas chamber & various gases. Wasn't
so ~~bad~~ but the tear gas made us cry like
babies. After the experiment you realize how
valuable the gas mask is.

Well, that's all the news for today mom.
So I'll sign off now. Write when you get
a chance, and thanks for your prayers. I'll
try to remember Mr. Lovell in mine

Love to all, as well,
Frank.

Prvt. F. J. Shields, U. S. Army
Co A, 37th B'n, Bldg 218
Camp Croft,
South Carolina



Mrs. F. J. Shields
244 - 87th Street,
Brooklyn,
New York