



CAMP CROFT  
SOUTH CAROLINA

Tues, 4/6/43, 5:30 P.M.

Dear Mom,

Will have to fall out for retreat any minute now, but I'll start this letter anyhow. I started one to Auntie at 7:30 this morning, and finished it at 2:00 this afternoon. The intervening time was spent on a hike. We hiked an hour, then bivouacked (moved into an area and pitched tents and dug slit [not shit] trenches for protection from air raids) for an hour and a half. After that we hiked another 2 hours. A total of 7 or 8 miles in all, I guess. Wasn't bad, and everybody was in high spirits.

We just learned today that our Company is acting as a guinea pig for a new basic training plan, which, if successful, will be put into effect throughout the whole damn camp. Seems we're getting more intensive training in the important phases of basic training than they were giving to the fellows before. In that way, the soldiers trained under this plan will be more prepared to meet the enemy.

I intended to go to the 7 o'clock Mass tonite, but I understand that I, along with



quite a few others, have to fall out at 7:15 to sign  
some forms for the Army Specialized Training Program.  
I'm not sure, but I think that means I made a  
qualifying mark on the exam. Since we're to fall  
out very minute now (it's 7:10), I'll sign off  
and continue this letter when I come back.

Well, mom, it's all over. The gist of it all is this: The  
fellows who were called out made the qualifying mark  
on the exam (Thank God almighty). We had to fill out  
in triplicate a form listing college credits, occupation of  
individual (prior to induction) and that of his parents, schooling  
of parents, ~~total~~ number of brothers & sisters, preference  
of branch of service, preference of training, etc.  
The instruction sheet mentioned some sort of screen-  
ing test, and the sergeant in charge gave us to under-  
stand we'd have to take it. But by his own admission,  
he knows nothing about the Specialized Tr. Program &  
its branches, so we think that we already took  
that exam. At least we hope so. There are certain  
expressions in our instruction sheet that lead us  
to think the screening test is that <sup>we took the</sup> Jun. 2 who. ago.  
But test or no test, we're to appear before an ex-  
amining board soon; this board makes the  
final decision as to whether we're to be sent to  
school or not. I believe our chances are good.

I pray that they are. And pray also in Thanking  
for our receiving a qualifying mark. According  
to latrine statistics, only 10 out of 200 who  
take the exam get to go to school. However, we believe  
the exam is the major obstacle. Incidentally, that  
mom, we found out while we were there, that





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our basic training is due to end June 20<sup>th</sup>

Mom, I think I've told you everything,  
and it's nearly time for "lights out" So I'll  
close now. Remember the poor souls in your  
morning Masses. As always, their spiritual  
assistance thru the Blessed Trinity is very  
great

Love, as ever,  
Frank.