



CAMP CROFT
SOUTH CAROLINA

Tues. Apr. 12, '43
5:40 a.m.

Dear Mom,

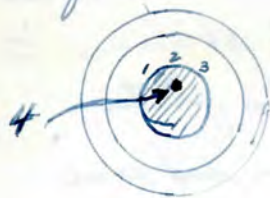
The reason we're up so early is that we're going up to the range again today. And so I'm starting this letter early this morning, anyway, altho it may not be finished and mailed until Thurs or Fri.

Yesterday morning it rained heavily, so we waited until it cleared in the afternoon to go to the range. Gosh, but it's a great pleasure to fire that m.!! First we fired 4 rounds as trial shots, in order to set the sights correctly. This is called zeroing the rifle. Next we fired 4 shots at a 200 yd range at a bulls-eye 10 in. in diameter. I made one bull, 2 4's and one 3 ring. An average score of 16, ^{out of 20} but I'd like to make it a helluva lot better than that. A warm wind was blowing like hell right across the range, so, when we were about to go home, our platoon sergeant said, that under the conditions, we did some damn fine firing for our first day, and that he was damn proud of us. But very few of us was satisfied with the score we made. We want to do better.

To show you the caliber of our officers, our platoon leader, Lt. Ginter, has offered, out of his own pocket, a prize of \$5 for best shot, \$3 for second best, & \$2 for third best. I doubt that I'll get any of the prizes, but I'm going to try hard, anyway. The fellow across the way from me

had 7 bulls eyes in 8 shots & his credit - 6 of them one after the other, then a 4, & then another bull. a total of 39 out of 40 points. (There's charm!)

Well, it's now 8 P.M. Another full day at the range. Gad, but we like it!! Our only trouble was a 40 mile an hour sand storm that gummed up our rifles thoroughly. I worked in the rifle ^{target} pits (that's where the targets are pulled up & down after each shot) all morning. But I was rather fortunate, being the telephone man on the ~~fire~~ ^{wire} to the firing ~~line~~ line. I just yelled out the instructions as they were phoned down from the firing line. It's quite an experience to hear the bullets thwacking thru the targets. In the afternoon I fired 4 shots from the sitting position. Imagine ^{only} 4 rounds in 4 hours! Sounds slow, doesn't it? But you'd be surprised how fast the time flies there. It felt as though we were there only a short time. Today, in the sitting position, I fired a higher score than I did yesterday in the prone. The reason was that my rifle still wasn't zeroed (set correctly for elevation and windage for me) correctly yesterday. If this were the target, my first 3 shots are numbered



where they hit today. As you can see, they are too high. Therefore the rifle isn't zeroed. So I lowered my rear sight 1 click, and my 4th shot, as shown in the figure, was a bulls eye. That gave me a ~~so~~ score

of 17 out of a possible 20, which isn't bad shooting. But I'd like to get at least 18 or 19 out of 20. That way, out of a possible 200 points, I could fire 180 and qualify as an expert shot. A score of 165 is sharpshooter, and 140 gives marksman. It's practically certain that all of us will qualify in one of the 3 grades. I hope so.

Last nite there was good news for all of us. For last



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rite was pay-day. I got \$21.25. Don't get excited now! I think I can account for most of the rest. Two months insurance is \$13, two months war bonds makes 12.50. That's \$25.50. Then there's \$1.50 for G.I. laundry, \$.92 for a fatigue hat I lost at Mpton, and \$1.50 I subscribed for "Yank" magazine. That's at a total of \$3.92 or about \$4 more. This, added to the \$25.50 gives \$29.50. Subtract this from \$50 and you have \$20.50. I got \$21.25, so I guess I didn't do so badly after all. I don't know yet, mom, if I can afford to send any of it home. Cause I have to have my blouse & 4 pairs of trousers altered, and pick up a couple of more pairs of wool socks at \$5 a throw. Then, there's the question of buying one of the sharp overseas hats that the infantryman here wears. That's about \$2.25. And, then there's spending money. So I guess that I'll wait till next payday, and if I have anything leftover, I'll send it along with the \$20.00 \$25 I intend to send out of the 35-00 37 dollars I'm supposed to get.

I guess I won't get to Spartanburg till Sat., cause we have to spend an hour each night cleaning our rifles alone. So we're pretty busy till bedtime. However I'll try to get another letter off Thurs. I still owe one to the 3 sisters.

That seems to be all the news from this end, mom.
How's things on yours? No further news about the
Army College Program. For the present,

Love, as always,
Frank.

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