



CAMP CROFT  
CAMP CROFT, S. C.

Thurs., 6/3/43  
4:50 P.M.

Dear Mom,

Busy, as usual - and that's why I didn't write. Then, too, it's so damned hot here you just have no incentive to write. We had 2 hours of softball playing today, and an hour of calisthenics and hand-to-hand combat instruction. All in undershirts of course, so I've got a nice lobster-red color on my face, neck and shoulders now. Doesn't bother me at all - that is, except for my nose. That's as tender as a baby's ass - because your nose is the only thing that gets plenty of sun down here. The plastic helmets we wear here shade the face from the sun, but the nose always sticks out. With the result that most of us down here look like confirmed sunburns. Our noses glow in the dark.

The eagle came ~~off~~ across again last Monday - \$35.75 worth. So I went to town pay night and took out my camera and snapped a few pictures of the boys & myself. They should be ready tomorrow night, so I'll pick them up if I have time. Tomorrow night, by the way,

were going out on a night problem again. From  
9:30 P.M. to 1:30 A.M. And Dot sent me a telegram  
yesterday to the effect that she was arriving at 6 P.M.  
tomorrow evening. But I have permission to miss  
retreat, so I'll be able to meet her & have chaw  
with her before I have to return to camp at 8:30.

8:30 P.M.

Leaving on a night problem tonight, too, in a  
few minutes. Letter was interrupted by chaw call.  
Then I took a shower after chaw & was sudden-  
ly reminded that today was Ascension Thurs.

Masses were at 12:00 (noon), 6 & 6:30 tonight.  
Yesterday had made up my mind to go to the 12,  
but plumb forgot about it today. So was in  
the shower at 6 when one of the boys asked  
if I was going to church. Hopped out, dressed,  
& was in plenty of time to make the 6:30.

How would you like to go to Mass at 6:30  
at night? It is an experience!

But you're sorry Joe & I are not home to  
help you with the painting! Come to think  
of it, ~~we~~ we did make a pretty good pair  
of painters, even tho' we took our damn fine  
time doing the job. But boy, how we hated that  
work! I guess we just weren't cut out for it.

Am glad to hear Felix & Joe are together  
again. I guess Felix is a steadying influence  
on my Honorable fire. Also in the  
line of mail, received a card from John Callon



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which was postmarked Pittsburgh. Seems as tho' the ~~to~~ brilliant old boy is now doing research work at the Mellon Industrial Research Institute there. No address yet, so no further work.

Oh, oh, there goes the whistle for the night problem. See you later.

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Sat, 6:00 A.M.

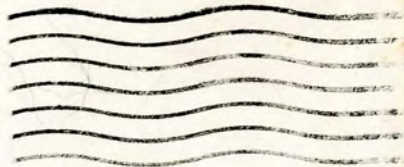
Well, Dot arrived last night. She looks swell, but I didn't have much of a chance to see her. You see, last night they changed the time for the start of the problem from 9:30 P.M. to 8:30. That meant I had to be back in the barracks at 7:30. On top of that, the train, which was supposed to arrive at 6 P.M., didn't come 'til 7:20. So I had to rush Dot to a taxi, which her to the place where she's going and beat it back to camp. It cost me \$5 for taxi fare yesterday, but I should give a damn. This afternoon we're having a battalion parade, but I'm going to beat it to town as soon as the damn things all over. Last night we didn't get in

tell 12:45, and to bed at about 1:30 A.M. This morning we were up at 5:30 tho! 4 hours sleep. Everybody looks like they'd been out on a binge for a week. At present, the weather is in the midst of a heat wave. Altho our training the past 2 days wasn't tough, yet those days, because of the heat, were the worst we've seen since we came here. The temp approached the 100 mark in the shade.

If I want this to reach you at all, I'll have to sign off now. Work to do. Will let you know what cooks with Susie & I.

Love, as ever,  
Frank.

Pat. F. Shields  
Co A, 37 Bn, Bldg 218  
Camp Craft, S.C.



Free

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