



SOUTH \*\*  
CAROLINA

Saturday, 6/26/43  
2:30 P.M.

Dear Mom,

I repeat, I wish I could get the hell out of this A.S.T.P. It's not winning the war! But we were politely informed that we're in this outfit to stay, so I guess that's all there is to it.

I was transferred today to another company here, and landed two books, one Math, the other Physics. So I'll be taking a "refresher" course here 'til I leave. Thurs. I underwent a Math exam, and this morning a test in Chemistry. I suppose I'll have a couple more coming up soon. In this new outfit we room 4 together, in double-decker bunks, with desks, bureaus, closets & a sink in each room. Not bad, all in all. I really don't know how long I'll be here, but figure that it'll be at least another week. So you can write to the address on the envelope. What's the news from Dot, and have you heard from Joe yet? Also, did Dot send you any pictures that we took while she was in Spartanburg? I've had only one

letter forwarded from Craft so far. It was from Aunty,  
and she enclosed a dollar. The dollar will come in  
handy, since I've spent \$4 of the 25 you sent me.  
I'll send the balance home whenever they pay me,  
since it appears from all indications that we  
aren't going to get our furloughs from here or  
from where we're shipped to. I guess it will be about  
3 months before I'll be able to get home. Present  
regulations call for a 7-day furlough after each 12  
week course in school. They've been shipping them out  
rather fast here to all parts of the country. Here's some  
of the schools they've been sending or are going to  
send men to: Georgia Tech, Alabama Tech, U. of  
Mississippi, U. of Maryland, Rutgers, Yale, St. Bon-  
aventure's, N.Y. U. and Fordham. But most of  
the Northern schools are for languages. I'm an  
engineer, so I guess I'll be sent farther south.  
That's just my luck and the Arabs way of doing  
things.

I guess I'll go into town tonight. They've got  
some pretty good U.S.O.'s and some of the nicest-  
looking women I've seen anyplace. I may be  
able to hit on ~~at~~ a dance at one of the U.S.O.'s  
someplace. Honestly, one of the worst things about  
this place is its inactivity. And then there are  
those schmucks (Kikes) who get under my skin.  
And believe me, there are plenty of them!

Sun. 12:45 P.M.

Just finished chow - chicken, buttered beets, lima beans, rolls, milk, crackers and ice cream. Not bad at all, and the first chicken I've had since I came into the Army.

Went into town last night with 4 other fellows, and had a darn nice time. Met 5 girls at one of the boarding houses for girls going to school here. Must have been at least 20 girls staying there, and I guess we were introduced to about 10 of them. Some of them were leaving at 3 A.M. this morning to take one of the other girls home - about 200 miles away. So, since we are free 'til 6 tonight, we sat out on the lawn in front of the house with them 'til about 2:30 A.M. The whole incident reminded me of the nights Gene D. Joe, Johnny Aces & I used to spend with the 3 Sisters in Flatbush. And there was a little girl of 12 there named Betty.. same pug nose, same size, same mannerisms as our own kid sister. Lord, but the whole damned incident reminded me of home.

Then this morning I got up at 8:30 and hopped a bus into town for the 10 o'clock Mass. Got there at 9:30 so I dropped into the Catholic U. S. O. right there at the church. Gad, what a place! Bigger than St. Pat's auditorium, with plenty of easy chairs, soft-drink machines, a radio, juke box, and an abundance of magazines and

books. The church, a modern structure, was one of the nicest I've seen in a long time. And the congregation was largely military - both soldiers, air cadets, & ensigns. All in all this is a wonderful place, beautifully situated in a fine residential section. The college, the church, the U.S.O., - everything, I mean.

Had to buy another cap last night. My summer tan one was filthy. I've been wearing ~~it~~ so long. So I picked up a rather nice one for 95¢. And so, deducting fares, sodas, etc., I now have \$19.50 left. I don't think we're going to be paid here, so I'll have to squeeze the old wallet for a while.

I guess that's all the news for the present, Mom. If you want to know anything more, just write & ask me. So I'll sign off now for a while.

Love, as ever,  
Frank.

Prof. Francis J. Shields, U. S. A.  
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North Carolina State College  
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Free

BUY  
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BONDS AND STAMPS

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