



SOUTH **
CAROLINA

July 2/43

Friday, 7/2/43
7:30 P.M.

Dear Mom,

Tonight I received the letter you wrote Wed. nite, and believe me, it was good to get a letter from you. The only mail I've had lately was a letter from Gene D. that came thru Croft. And I still have to answer Auntie's letter, and ones from Joe Sherman and Johnny Ace that I received just before I left Camp Croft.

Yes, mom, I met Harry Staley here, and it was damn nice to see a familiar face from the ol' home town. I didn't know that he'd phoned home, or that he'd mentioned my name. Did you know, then, that I was here at Raleigh even before you got my letter? Staley was put in Engineering, and shipped out for Boston University about 4 days ago.

As you probably know, in A. S. T. P. Eng. there are two branches, Basic & Advanced, each, of course, involving a number of 3 month terms. Most of the fellows here, with just high school or a term or 2 of college, are put in Basic Engineering I or II. They're doing anything to get Engineers. Well, yesterday I had my second interview and was classified. I was put into 4A-1, which is a 3 month refresher course in Math, Physics & Mechanical Drawing, preparatory to work in the Advanced section, Electrical Engineering. So, from that, you can see I'm due for

a refresher course and then go on to the advanced section for Electrical Engineering. I don't know how the hell they put me up that high, but I'm becoming ~~adjusted~~ adjusted to this life, and see things in a better light now that I won't have to spend too much time in school. The latest reports say that the fellows in advanced will get Pfc. ratings. In all probability I'll be sent, along with the other 1000 4A-1's here, to an engineering school soon. And that probably means either M.I.T., or Georgia or Alabama Tech. But don't count on anything. You know how the Army balls up things.

I was particularly glad to hear from Joe. I'm going to get some V mail forms & send him a couple of letters before I leave here. Remember, he's had the best of training, and he has a quick mind, so don't worry about him. Just keep busy praying. That will accomplish more than all the worry-birds in the world.

I'm rather sorry to hear about Mr. Lavett, looks bad, doesn't it. And along those lines, "Chief," one of the fellows ~~is~~ bunking here in my room lives right behind the Di. Fucio's on 79th St. He knew John Di Fucio.

Mom, that's not a very charitable thing to say about Johnny Russell. After all, if it were possible, you'd like to have your ~~of~~ sons home every weekend if you could. "Chief," did you get my "Yank" magazines? I figured they'd be ~~a~~ nice to keep til after the war, like your "London Illustrated News"

Three Cheers for Doc. She's getting ahead fast! One or two more promotions & she'll be better off than going to O.C.S. - - Had to interrupt this to go to a movie here tonight. I'm now 10:30 so I'll have to sign off for a while. Love, as ever

P.S. Can you imagine? School on Saturday!!

Frank.

Prof. Francis J. Shields

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