

Rfc, F. J. S. 12110488

S.V. 1545 - Btry C

406 Ellsworth Ave
West Lafayette,
Inds



SOUTH **
CAROLINA

Sun., 7/11/43

10 A.M.

Dear Mom,

I never realized that the U. S. was such a damn big place. But after you ride 1400 miles in a coach, you begin to realize the terrific expanse of the country. We left Raleigh at 7:20 A.M. on Thursday. For hours on end we rolled west in sooty, dirty Southern R.R. coaches. But the scenery was beautiful, and we had worn our dirty sun-tans anyhow.

About 60 miles east of Asheville, N.C., we ran into the Great Smoky Mts. By heaven, when this war is over, I'm going to get me a great big car & tour all the places I've been.

You just can't imagine the splendor and scenic beauty of the Great Smokies 'til you've seen them! Perhaps the most interesting thing about them is the way they suddenly rise like ant hills out of miles of flat farm land.

In a ^{horizontal} space of 100 ft. a huge mound of earth, which is naturally part of the foothills, will rise sheer up to perhaps 200 300 feet. It's astounding. Our mountains up north are not at all like them. From a distance of 5 or 6 miles away, the mountain tops, cloaked with clouds, appear to be lying lazily in a great bed of smoke. Hence the name.

On a greater part of the trip over the mts, we had one engine pushing & one pulling. Tunnels are numerous,

but the main way of passing ^{over} the mts. is by pushing up a gradual slope from the floor of the valley. Of course, the only way to do this is to keep circling and back-tracking on the near side of the mtn., rising at the same time to perhaps a distance of 2000 ft. In one spot, we passed on the valley floor, in a beautiful & grassy spot, an artesian well shooting a geyser of water up 200 300 ft. into the air. And as we circled around to get over the mtn., we could always keep this in sight. So you can imagine what it was like reaching the top & looking down 2000 ft to the geyser on the valley floor below. Words can't describe the scene. You'll just have to see it yourself.

At Asheville we changed for a north bound train, reaching Cincinnati at 8 a.m. Fri. And the train was as packed as a Sea Beach all the way. At Cincinnati, thank God, we made connections with the N. Y. Central and ~~head~~ headed northwest for Lafayette. From Cinay. north all you can see are miles & miles of corn & wheat fields and beautiful farms. What a change from the dirty farms & squalidness of the South. Give me the good ol' North any day.

¶ [An hour and a half out of Indianapolis we reached Lafayette, at 12 noon. It's a small town, altho it has 31 churches, and its situated on the banks of the Walash. in flat farm country. West Lafayette, where the U. is, is only across the river. And what a place this is! 800 acres of beautiful

Campus, modern buildings & shade trees. It's wonderful. We're quartered in a flat house about an eighth of a mile from the U. proper. There's 50 of us in one house. And the accommodations, altho not nearly as fine as those in the dorms, are damn nice. Nice big living room with a fire place, radio, 8 ft. table, 2 large sofas & 10 leather chairs + a piano. We sleep in large rooms holding about 24 fellows, while we have our own room for ^{our} clothes & books. The four who come up together are in the one room. 4 desks, 3 bureaus, 2 large closets, etc. And down stairs we have a ~~lot~~ swell shaded concrete porch running around 2 sides of this Spanish style house. Not bad at all. The chow is pretty good. Last nite Ed Conley Conley & I went into town & had the first decent beer since we left N. Y. In telling you, the beer down South is horrible. The first one makes you nauseous. But boy, how the first one here makes you want more! 3 Cheers for the North! After we came back we went to a Variety show at the auditorium here, the world's largest. It's as exquisitely furnished as Radio City. Great guns, what a place! After the show we went to a student union dance. There were so many women we didn't know where to start, but once we started we did all right! And so this is fighting a war! I'll be damned.

School starts tomorrow: Math, Physics, Eng. Drawing,
Military classes, & Physical Ed. 36 hours a week.
Oo, oi! It sure looks tough. I'm afraid you'll have
to tell people I won't be able to write often, and will
probably have a tough time getting letters off to you.
Study hours are compulsory from 7:30 P. M. on. There's
1200 Navy men here, about the same no. of soldiers,
god knows how many marines, & thousands of civilians,
not to mention the women. And the tech. equipment
is simply marvelous. So we'll see what we see.

Mass is held right here on the campus on the
stage of the Music Hall. Pretty nice, indeed.

Well, Mom, let's leave the news from you. I haven't
had any mail in about 2 weeks. I'll sign off now,
since it's getting close to chow time. I'm going to get
another 5 letters off to Joe today. But send this on to
Dot, since I may not be able to write her for some time.
This is my last free day, so I'm going to make the
most of it. Write soon.

Love, as ever
Frank.

P.S. Phone my new address to Peg, will you.
The tel. no is NA 8-5872

P.P.S. Lost my maraculan medals on the infiltration
course on the barbed wire. Forgot to tell you. What
can you do for me?

Frank.

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