



CAMP CROFT
CAMP CROFT, S. C.

Tuesday, 6/8/43
4:30 P.M.

Dear Mom,

To continue the letter I began last week: I got permission to miss retreat Fri, so left for town at 4:50. Arrived at the R.R. station ^{at 5:20}, expecting to meet Dot at 6:00 soon thereafter. But as luck would have it, the train was late, and it didn't pull in 'til 7:16. I was supposed to be back in the barracks at 7:30, to get ready for our night problem, since it had been moved up an hour from 9:30 to 8:30. So I had only time to say hello to Susie, rush her to a taxi and take her over to the place where she stayed. Then I lit out helter-skelter for camp and got there just in time. Sat. nite, right after retreat, I went in to see Dot again. Joe Woolf was with me, so we all went down to the best restaurant in town & had chew. Dot had 2 soft-shelled crabs with all the trimmings, and Joe & I had

Southern fried chicken. Sure was good!

After that we went up to a beer hall near Converse College & I introduced Dot to a lot of the fellows from the barracks. We had a pretty nice time there, from 9 to 12 o'clock. Just sat & talked & drank Schlitz all during that time. Harry Bertrand, the VOC (officer candidate) who sleeps next to me, treated us all to some brandied fruit cocktail (at about 50¢ a throw). I guess we all got pretty high, 'cause we were feeling damn good. We walked home, & Dot & I sat up for about an hour and a half talking things in general over. I think I've halfway influenced her to put in her application for **O.C.S.** At any rate I gave her a good story (true) about our O.C.S. that should help her to make up her mind one way or the other.



SOUTH **
CAROLINA

The next morning we slept rather late, getting up at 10:15. Went to town, had breakfast and repaired to church for the 12 o'clock mass. It was a beautiful church, and the first civilian church I'd been in since I came into the Army. Very impressive, to say the least. After church we went down to the U.S.O. and took out my camera. We walked around town and snapped a couple of pictures. (your extra film arrived yesterday). Dot now has the film and camera, because she can have them ^(films) developed, and take care of the camera. I'll be leaving here in 12 days, and they would have been a ~~of~~ bother. At any rate, after taking the pictures, we visited one of the U.S.O.'s and then took in a movie. After the movie we got 3 bottles of Pepsi-cola (all we could get anyplace) and went back to her room. Bob Roche was with us, so we opened a bottle of rum I had bought Sat. nite and sat around talking & drinking rum cokes 'til about 10 o'clock. Bob and I took the unfinished bottle and went back to camp after saying good bye to Dot. There was too much rum

left so Bob & I didn't touch it but sat in the latrine back in camp and as the other fellows came in, gave them a shot for good luck. Dot left yesterday morning on the 11:40 P.M. train. Lord, but it was good to see her. The recounting of her visit may not sound interesting, but I assure you we certainly had a swell time. Dot looks swell, and she's enjoying Army life. I was sorry to see her go, and am looking forward to seeing her again.

Yesterday we were up on the range, undergoing a battle-conditioning course in demolition, village fighting, grenades & infiltration. It's too long to tell all about it here, but you can imagine what it was like when I say that we crawled under machine gun fire & had dynamite exploded within 6 feet of us. I shall tell you more about it all whenever I get a free laugh.

Well, mom, I intended to write about 6 letters tonight, but since I started this there has been a large discussion going on here on religion, evolution, the ~~soul~~ soul, birth control, etc. Blackout !!

Blackout's over, but it took 40 minutes. Have a start of K.P. ^{tomorrow} so I'll sign off now. Please send me Joe's address again.

Love, as ever,
Frank

Pvt. F. J. Shields, U. S. A.

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Camp Croft, S. C.



Free.

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