

Wed, 7/7/43
7:30 P.M.



Dear Mom,

Well, it's come at long last! I leave tomorrow at 4:30 A.M., and by the time you receive this letter, I shall be nearing my destination, approximately 1400 miles away from here. - Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. That's 1400 miles from here, but I understand it's only about 750 miles from New York. At least, I hope so. Orders came thru only a few hours ago, but I've already received my travel pay - that is, ration money. Three dollars a day, for two days. That's \$6.00. Guess it won't cost me quite that much to eat on the way out. There's only four of us going from here, so we probably won't go by troop train. The possibility is that we'll go by Pullman. The Army furnishes the tickets, of course.

A helluva lot of fellows leaving here now are going up around New York. That fellow, Paul Angiolillo, whom I wrote about before, and who knows John Di Furio, is leaving tomorrow for Fordham U. I gave him my telephone number

and told him to call you up. He's a pretty dependable fellow, so I guess he'll do it all right.

As I see it now, I'm due for 15 months A.S.T.P.; probably all of it at Purdue. 3 months refresher, and then 12 mos. of comprehensive ^{Electrical} work. I guess I'd better try my best in this work after all, since it will help me a helluva lot after the war. The E.E. course includes work ⁱⁿ Electronics. Not that you know anything about it, but ask the "Chief," and he'll tell you Electronics is the up and coming thing in the post-war world. It's going to be tough sledding, and it scares me. But there's nothing like trying. And it will be interesting, which will help. After my 5th term I think I'll have a choice of Communications or Power. They're the two branches in the program. I'd like Communications (which is a prelude to the hush-hush "Radar" work). Humph, - guess I'm counting my chickens, etc.

Well, I have to get ready to pull out tomorrow, so I'll sign off now. Hope you got my voice record from the U. S.O. How does it sound, and how do you like it?

Guess you'd better not write to me until I send you my new address. By the way, I have a set of sun-tans in the college laundry here & can't get them. I'll have to have them sent C.O.D. to my new station.

'Bye for a while,
P.S. May get a Pfc!

Love,
Frank.

Prof. Francis J. Shields
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Free.

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