

**March 23, 1941**

**Dear Folks,**

**This is next to the last day of our quarantine and boy am I glad! We get inspected for measles every day until we're turned loose. It'd be just our luck to have someone break out tomorrow and then we'd have another three weeks of quarantine. Well this is Mar. 25. I got started Mon. but that's all. Tues. night I went down to the PX to get a haircut but there was such a mob there I couldn't get one. Men under quarantine were only allowed from eight until nine at the PX. Last night our quarantine was lifted so I got my first haircut since I left home. The barbers are all civilians and they must work on so much a head commission. They turn out about every three minutes. A run around the edge with the clippers, a hack back or two on the top with the shears, a couple of swipes with a razor around the ears and "NEXT! Thirty five please!"**

**We have been hitting the ball on our schooling the last few days. We'll all know how to operate all the guns, trucks and other tools. We get about two hours of drill and exercises every day. With new men coming in every day we get a lot of "ditto" stuff. Saw another show today I'd already twice before. We all get run down to the theater as one Co. Some of the old men have seen the show six or seven times. It's going to be a long time before I get a thrill out of the idea of a free show.**

**Our mess hall is getting to be a gathering place for all the Com. Officers. I guess the food is the best in the 22nd Engr. Bn. At least the men that were transferred from other companies say it is. If the Com. officers keep on showing up every day for mass, some of us are going to get caught for not saluting. The "old man" has been warning us about saluting all week.**

**This is the damndest place for sand—sand in your shoes, sand in your eyes, sand in your hair, teeth, clothes and every place that supposed to be clean. "The shoes will be polished for Retreat " Five minutes later Retreat no more shoe shine.**

**So far I have six pairs of pants, four shirts, two pair of shoes, trunk, overcoat, raincoat, and a lot of other stuff. They tell us we'll have about four hundred dollars worth of clouths when we get thru. Some of the guys get some awful fits but I can't kick about any of mine. All the darn stuff thats issued has to be returned if you want to get some more. If your socks wear out, turn em in and get a new pair.**

**We have two staff sergeants in our barracks. Sarg. Barnes has been in the Army 12**

**years. The other fellow nine months. Theres shore is a place for anyone with any brains at all out here. Also a guy can get busted down so fast it'll seem like a wirllwind.**

**We have orders not to tell any military secrets. So far we don't know any and I don't think we'll know any for some time.**

**How's the weather been the last month? If you've had anything like we have out here you might as well buy five ton of coal and get ready for winter. Summer in Sunny Calif. can go plum to as far as I'm concerned. Say can you send me Uncle Elmer's address? I'll try to write him sometime.**

**Someone just asked what the latest news was. "Lee just surrendered" from over in the corner. We don't seem to give a darn about news any more. All we worry about is a parts of the gun we're studying or soldier's General Orders.**

**We now have a good share of the b.s. slingers and we all talk of getting hip boots to wade out of some of it. Nobody loves Hitler or the Japs around here and of all the crazy names and curses that are thought of!**

**I'll get around to take some pictures about next week. If you have any new ones send them along. Also send a few of those good looking South Dakota girls. We're having too much arguing.**

**So long for now.**

**Lyle**