

March 30, 1942

Dear Folks,

Well I've got a little time before retreat so I'll start. Just been down and got my last typhoid shot. Got a lockjaw shot too. Still got a lockjaw and one yellow fever shots to take. Hope I don't get sick tonight. The last typhoid I had made me mad at the whole army. This one isn't supposed to be so bad.

We were marched down to the motor pool this morning and got a lesson on motor care the Army way. About the only diff. is that they demand a clean motor at all times. That means washing the motor about every three days. All drivers have to have a drivers permit. Also any accident has to be filled out, right down to the paint scratches. Saw motorbike pile up today. One fellow had his pants wore off in the rear from sliding. The motor pool boss-a "Lewy" doesn't think much of motorcycles. Co.B only has two and I have no desire to ride one of them.

I just got your letter 2# Got one from Gladys, and one from Ruth, and one from Harvey. All the news sounds good. I'm glad Pa is getting a few days leg up in the field. If you got a week of steady running right off the bat gets kind of tiresome. Got the paper Sunday and it's amazing all the news a person can get out of it. It was there all a time before; but I guess I didn't read it. What's this about Marvin Manning of Minneapolis being best man at Ralph Bucklys wedding? Isn't he farming up by Summit yet! I'd like to have seen Ralph's face when the gang came around for ice cream. Harvey writes that he might have to go. If so I suppose he's already on his way. I shore am glad I could take my phisical first and not get shoved right on to camp the way that they do it now.

Maybe I better tell you about a few more of our classes. They split us up again in groups and gave us about three hours each day on some gun or other. Then the Garande rifle. Our bunchis studying the Browning 30-caliber machine gun. Boy the parts it takes to make one of those things go bang! bang! We got a few lessons on pup tents.They are called half shelters now: still the 1918 pup tent. All our stuff when we get it packed doesn't weight more than about a 40 lbs. The Engrs. ride in half tracks when they are in combat, so most of this stuff is stored in the trucks. Most of the other outfits have to pack a bigger bag on their back, but I guess they figger the Engrs. need all their strength to handle pick and shovel. A load of air compressors came in today and we went down to look at them.They are used to break up road beds or drill holes in rock. They're also used to drill holes in timbers and a lot of other things.

Each unit is mounted on a truck and is powered by gas motor. The work in the Engr. is all easy until some of the tracks get stuck in the mud, and then the old pick and shovel work starts in.

Well Co. B is the Alert Bn. tonight but only the old men that have had some rifle practice have to get out in case of a Sub attack or Air raid. All the rookies had to clean a rifle tonight. I learned more about what makes the Garande tick tonight than all the classes we've had so far. Some time in the next two weeks we'll get a chance to fire those guns. They are claimed to be the best rifle in the world. We haven't had much other stuff besides our regular close formation drill. Haven't been on KP yet but they are starting in on the rookies. Sun. Pvt. Ross from Ohio got put on KP. He has the bunk next to mine. We change off mopping every morning.

My money's holding out dark good so far. I've still got about \$14. I think I'll get our first big check April 10. I took out \$2000 insurance. It only cost \$1.38. Laundry cost \$1.50 a month. All this is taken out first, but I don't seem to need so much money. Shows only cost \$.20. We get a lot of magazines from the USO but don't care much about reading them right now. I shore miss the accordion, I wish you could send it out here, even in the shape it's in. You could get the case from Ralph Amsden. He could pack the drums in another box. It wouldn't pay to insure the darn thing. I'd shore like to get it if it isn't too much trouble. It looks like I'm here for about three months anyway.

Well my arms are starting to stiffen up from the shot so I'll sign off for now and go down and take a hot shower-swell life in the Army.

So long for now. Lyle