

April 14 1 PM

Dear Folks

Got a little time before we pull out for a motor convoy. Will be out of camp till 11 PM tonight so I won't get a chance to write tonight.

It's been colder then ---- for the last two days. Water froze in the steel helmets this morning. I've got on all the clothes I can move with now – don't know how it it'll be riding in the trucks. Hope we get one with the top on.

About five of us went together and bought a guitar. Got a fairly good one from a farmer for \$9. I got \$2 in it but can't play it. Plenty of men that can tho. Yauk (?) still has is his accordion, so when it warms up again, we'll have some campfire singings. We've had a few but it don't work good without a guitar.

We were down on the river yesterday, put up a pontoon bridge in the rain. Lots of fun. Mud and wet feet. It's really getting pretty down here now tho. The trees and the trees are leafing out and a lot of bushes in bloom – red, purple, white, and blue flowers all over. Plenty of old mule teams plowing cornfields. Mostly walking plows. A few tractors out, but it's still plenty wet in spots for them. I expect to get to see quite a bit more country today. P. Munson and I went to the same home last Sunday. Took a shower in the USO and spent the rest of the day meandering around town. Camp Forrest is about two miles from town so there's nothing but soldiers in town. Waited an hour for a hamburger steak supper. \$.60 –Army grub is not so bad. They shure haven't anything good to eat in there little towns around here.

Well it's almost time to take off so I'll have to sign off.

Got a couple of needles from a locus tree yesterday. How do they compare with the ones back home?

Until I have more time

So long for now.

Lyle

P.S. April 17

This is by candlelight in the rain so it won't be very good. I'm all alone in the pup tent tonight. Pfc. Sing is out with the unit at a new watch point we set up this afternoon. He and Fritz stayed out there. We just got so they could take another picture from the air – to see if they could locate our water point. Had to fill both tanks – so we'll have some fun taking the

unit down tomorrow. Pfc. Sing left without his raincoat – don't know how he'll make out. Might take the cover off the tank to use for a tent.

We really put in a busy week. The convoy lasted till 1 PM Thursday morning – got to sleep till 8 AM Thursday. Worked on the road Thursday afternoon. Worked all night Thursday putting up a pontoon bridge down by McMinville (?) Got to sleep till noon today and then took the unit out and set up. The rest of the company's out again tonight, some kind of combat problem. They'll get the morning off, but I'm afraid we'll have to work - anyway I'll get a good night's sleep tonight.

It's warmed up a lot out here today mostly nice again. It'll be swell in a couple of weeks when the trees get all leafed out. It's almost like a storybook country out here. Old men plowing with two old mules, the next field a tractor using a heatland (?) plow, the next a couple - man and wife - digging out brush. The trees still come up in a lot of the fields-have to be grubbed out every spring. Log cabins with the old iron pot out in the back yard. Big well-kept farm places and always a well with a rope and bucket. I haven't seen more than two or three pumps out here - cistern pumps – water's not far down.

There is a "white lightning" still about a quarter of a mile from where we're camped. A lot of the boys have been getting it. I haven't tried it. It's plenty powerful stuff Prof. Lyden (?) has had a couple of us jags on since we been down here. A lot of men have been over the hill since we got down here. Lot of them busted - extra duty and poor. It's just too close to home.

Well so long for now

P.S. Glad to get your letter. So I've got a star at Stockholm. Sure would like to be there to put some life into the community club again - would have to have Harvey and all the rest do it tho. - it won't be long now tho.