

**April 7 5 PM**

**Dear folks**

**This is the day after the picnic. Yesterday was Army day. A big event – so the papers say. All the rookies got a chance to stand along the Avenue and watch the armored division go past. We had on our field jackets but still we darn near froze. All in all it wasn't so bad. The only thing, by the time we got back all the pretty girls had got into their nice cars left. The 22nd Engrs. were clear on the tail of the run as usual. The only thing that came after was the Medical Corps. Boy do the tanks make a guy shiver when they go past. I'm glad I don't have to drive one of them.**

**Today we got our first drivers license. I started out on a 2 1/2 ton GMC truck – didn't do so bad. Then I get a chance at one of the little jeeps, boy are they fun to drive. We just drove around in the motor pool, but when it got about 50 trucks and jeeps going around in about 5 acres there is plenty to watch. We'll get a chance to drive the half tracks and bulldozers sometime this month.**

**Just got a letter from Dale Fritz. Sure got a shock to hear that Elmer Dragt got killed. I suppose if it hit the whole neighborhood pretty hard. Hope Florence can get straightened out. It'll be pretty hard on her.**

**Dale says Kenny is home. I'll bet there'll be things to do in around their while he's home. The V-8 will get double duty for a while. The way Dale writes there's not much work being done on the flats. How may times have you got stuck with the tractor Pa? How's the chicken business doing in the wet weather? Ma?**

**Got a letter from Uncle Elmer yesterday. He's about 200 miles from this camp. I'm supposed to go and visit him when I get a long pass. Maybe I'll get a chance for our weekend pass in a month or so. Uncle Elmer is still watching for japs two nights a week. Now he's afraid he'll be drafted for home guard. They are sure afraid the japs are going to try to take this coast area.**

**Well if you still don't know where the camp is I'll give you a little hint. We're 10 miles from Lompoc about eight from the surf. Lompoc is about halfway between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. Most maps show just Santa Barbara. All this is country around here is between the coast range of hills and the ocean. The Santa Yenez River supplies our water – boy is it hard!**

**We just got marched down to the dispensary to take some shots. All of us that came down here from Leavenworth got sent back without shots. We only need one lockjaw and one yellow fever and it takes three weeks between lockjaw shots. I'm not mad cause we didn't get shots. They aren't much fun.**

**How did Harvey come out in the draft? Or hasn't he been called yet? Is "Red" still in Milbank? Oh yes how is Elmer Nord's pig crop? Has he got over his trip yet? How's Jane getting along these days? And I see Alice sang for the big shot club in Milbank. Big stuff –??**

**Well so long for now**

**Lyle H**