

aug 29,
7:30 P.m.

Hi Kids!

I started to write a letter
& then discovered that I have
no stamps. You can't
buy them here until 8:30 in the
morning so guess a card
will do.

We had a pretty fair old
car into Omaha, where we
ate a stinkin' breakfast.
(Scrambled & dried eggs). The
C. B. & Q. Train was a
staggering line & we rolled
down into Beverly Station.
I was really nigh that roll
right along. Still a civil
as a rule till tomorrow
so we first sat around
Shawnee after a shower.
I'll let you know when you can
write him.

Mr. James H. Bastian
808 W. 12th St.
Grand Island,
Nebraska



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mr. James H. Bastian
808 West 12th Street
Grand Island, Nebraska

JIM

Aug 30, 1944

Dear Kids!

I'm still a civilian. Looks as if I'll never get in.

We eat at 4:30 P.M. in the evening. Then we're free until 9. Today we were up at 5:20 A.M. - Took our beds apart - ate breakfast - then sat around for an hour or so. Left to the induction dept where we got our papers - sat - saw army - navy interviewers (all D. kids in army) - sat from 9:00 until noon - was fingerprinted - sat until 3:00. Now we're bedded up until tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 P.M. & we can go anywhere on the camp. I guess we will be processed tomorrow. They're splitting everybody this evening - am now only with the other Hall county boys.

I would have been fingerprinted this morning but had to sign a pay booklet & statement of no illness since the preinduction physical. I told them about my operation & they sent me to the physical room. The head "doc" said I'd be O.K. - said something about two weeks to the sgt.

I guess I might go see Chamberland if I
get time during the day - also the chapel.
I was there last night but there wasn't
anyone there. There is a piano and a small
Hammond organ.

I might have you get me a (something) but
not for a while yet.

We have ^{some} gambles with us this evening.
One boy lost \$3.00 this afternoon. It's a
good thing I'll never have this kind of
trouble.

I guess it is time to eat now so will
sign off. I'll still let you know when
you will write. Love

Jim

P.S. It's hard to write on a bed on a box.

[w/1944, Aug. 30]



Mrs. James H. Bastion
808 West 12th Street
Sand Island, Nebraska

aug 31, 1944

JIM

Hi KIDS!

I am now past my civilian days - since about 4:30 this afternoon. They called us about two this afternoon; we went over to the induction station and sat until about 11:15. This evening we learned how to dispose of our civilian clothing etc.

Some of the Lord Island boys were sworn in yesterday afternoon - Sel Lykes, Gordon Schief (the butcher son) and others. They got their Army uniforms today. Gordon is on K. P. tomorrow.

They tell us that we have to get up tomorrow morning at 4:30 A.M. - I guess that we are in the Army now. We'll have to make our own beds now and help clean the barracks. If we get our U.S. Uniforms tomorrow, we can leave the Reception Center and go up to the post to the U.S.A. Service Club, etc. I guess that it is really beautiful. (Can't go until evening).

Today I went over to the chapel; the asst. was busy typing out the chaplain's monthly report. He said that on this post nobody except authorized persons can play. Said he couldn't play in the chapel and that the fellow up there couldn't play in the Reception Center chapel - need to go.

Guess I won't try Chamberland - he might turn
out to be a _____.

I'll have to close now as it's about
9 P.m. - lights out at 9 - we have to
be in by 16

you can write now

address { Pvt. James D. Baston Jr. 37751 376
R.C. 1773 Co. "H" Roster 183
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Love
Jim.

September 2, 1944

JIM

HI KIDS!

I'm really a S.D. - G.D. (Grand Island Government Issue) now. Yesterday we were issued our uniforms and equipment. We got 3 suntans (summer dress) 2 D.D.'s (winter dress) and one Fatigue. I guess we are issued two more types (H.D.S.) when we pass on into basic. I spent all last evening out on the lawn marking my clothing. We have to mark everything with our last initial and the last four numbers of our serial number (B:1376).

I sent my suitcase on home, in it is my civilian clothing. After I mailed it I discovered that my sweater was still hanging upon the wall. I mailed it today with the "Service Record" book. It is a little too much for my barracks bag. When I get into basic I'll send home for some stuff as we are supposed to have two barracks bags then.

Now that we have our uniforms we can go up to the Post. There is a Theater, U.S.O.; Service Club, etc. Some of the boys went up last evening. I wanted to get my stuff marked so stayed here. This afternoon we will get our first two shots and go to Company B. You still address my mail the same however. (I don't have anything yet as there is no mail call in a processing unit.) This morning we were interviewed and classified, ordered out insurance, made arrangements for our bonds. I made Shirley co-owner and they

→ They may not get their stuff marked so easily when we start to work.

will be shipped to her. You folks can put them in
the safety deposit box! This morning we also
saw two movies; One on Sex Hygiene, the other
on military courtesy. I threw my first salute
this morning. I passed ^{the} Chaplain. He's a
Captain.

I am sending home for safe keeping my
insurance and bond receipts.

I suppose that we'll all have to go to work
tomorrow as we will be in Company B.

We get up at 4:30 A.M. now! Eat at 5; clean
up barracks by 6:30; Lights out at 9 + everybody
has to be in by 11.

The guy sleeping above me is a John Steelmeyer
from G. D. He used to work at Jessie's. Says
he knows Stoll, but she'd never go out with
him; said she had family trouble - Ha!

Fort Leavenworth is really a beautiful
place. I guess the Post is even better than the
Reception Center.

Guess that I'll have to close now.

Write

Jim

P.S.

When you can no longer write I'll
let you know. P.S. Be sure to put the receipts
in a safety deposit box.

Pvt. James H. Bastian, Jr. 37751376
R.O. 1773 Co. "A" Postal #83
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

[W/1944, Sept. 2]

Free



Mr. James H. Bastian
808 West 12th Street
Grand Island, Nebraska

September 4, 1944
"Labor Day"

JIM

Dear Kids,

I see that today is Labor Day; I say Labor Day for I've been on K.P. all today.

They told us to tie our towel on the foot of our bunk Sunday evening for Monday K.P. A detail boy woke the K.P.'s at 3:30 P.M. this morning. We started to work at 6:00 P.M. and finished at 7: this evening. - 15 hours. It is not hard work but a steady drag without much rest also, the same thing over three different times. I was in the north mess hall as butter, sugar, jelly, jam, peanut butter, salt orderlies.

I kept the tables supplied. After each meal we had to clean up the hall completely, line up tables with a string and also the stuff upon them. I'm rather weary tonight.

We moved into Company B (Shipping Co) late Saturday afternoon. I got settled, cleaned up, and for the first time put on my suitcase and went up to the post. I saw the Seving Club, P.X., and y.m.e.a. Later I went to the show (154) 2 features "Charlie Chan" and "Kansas City Kitty" - both kind - a crap. Put a change.

Sunday morning we got to sleep until 6:00
A.M. - Had mess. When I got back from
chow I had bad luck. Every body is
supposed to fall out in their fatigues every
morn. I had meant to change into my
suntans as soon as I got back but the
Sgt. came up and caught me + 3 others just
returning for some detail work. It was
12 P. at the officers mess. When we got there
the Sgt. in charge said he didn't need us that
it must be for officers quarters. We laid on
the grass for 2 1/2 hrs. - Then the Officers
mess Sgt. called us in. - We cleaned
the store room.

He told me to spray some spray around
I was combining crop. I used the stuff
and killed more birds than they had seen
in a long time. I told him that the stuff
was no good; also, that Caddy is an
exterminator. He became interested
wanted me to get some powder + clean it
out. - Ha! I put him off.

When I asked about Chambleyland
he said that he didn't know anything
about him that he must be in the officers
mess at the fort which is separate from
the officers mess here on the Reception Center.

[1944, Sept. 7]

JIM.

He did call up the officers mess chow to get
Chamberland to get him some powder right
now. They knew about no Chamberland either.
He looked in the telephone directory & found a
Geo. Chamberlin, but the line had been disconnected.

Anyway he told me to heat it until 2:00
P.M. & cook bars & spray again I did.
He dismissed me. The other guys washed
dishes all day. - Ha, Ha, Ha,

I came back to my barracks - washed out some
things - got cleaned up - and went up to another
picture show. Lots of Lamore in some things about a
Rainbow. It bored me. - all in all didn't get
to go to chapel yesterday but it's ok.

This evening when I came in I found 3 letters
waiting me. They were my first. I was
certainly glad to get them. - The card was out.
You want to know about my new address
here it is:

Pvt. James D. Bastian 37751376
R.C. 1773. Co. D, - Ser. F. - 4002
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

(over.)

The R.C. stands for Reception Center - Co-Company.
- Sec. = Section and 602 is our barracks number.

In my old address the Posters can be found in the dictionary. They have our names together in groups on a list - see?

Company B is a shipping Co. When we get orders to move I let you know not to write.

I was very happy also to receive the newsclippings + programs.

I'm sorry I can't write any more often - I don't always have time. Tell everyone hello for me.

Hope Shirley has a good school year.

If you wish you might send me a couple of slits or so gander shorts. Let them at Waldbaes. Musings wear Size 34. If they don't have these why don't get anything at all.

I'm going to mail this + then go to bed.

Love to all

P.S. It's quicker to write this now even if you can't read it.

Jim
P.S. Write me chambers address here where you send the power.
P.S. I forgot my new address.

Sept 5, 1944

Dear Shirley,

I received your letter
day letter today - Glad to
hear that you are going to
play in Falls Lake.

I had a soft job today.
I digged worms in duplicate
at the Christ Supply - will
tell you about it later.

I'm on K.P. tomorrow.

Give it a shout out!

Love & show now.

Love
Jim

Fort Jao. 2 Bacton, 3751396
R.C. 1773 - Co. B - Section F - 602
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Miss Shirley Ann Bacton
808 W. 17th Street
Grand Island, Neb.

Sept. 6, 1944

JIM!

Hi KIDS!

Saw my poppa today; I certainly was glad. I was thinking all the way over to the information office that it might him - glad it was - Would have been disappointed had it not been. We had a nice visit. Had thought that I was on shipping orders but am not yet. They just told the mess Sgt. that so as to get no excuses I just served the rest of the day (Four hours) and then helped clean our barracks. Today is General-Clean-Up Day. We wash windows, double H. I. the floors (scrubbed w. D. soap & long handled brushes), clean cob-webs and dust from walls and corners. +

Received no letter from you all today but was much more glad for my visitor. Mrs. Dyer did write however. Told me all the news. She might want some of Mrs. L.'s music, especially those modulations into the Key of G. Let her have them. Said Hazel Morgan didn't get in until Saturday. She told her briefly about the service, then Sweetland cornered her too. Guess it all confused her. Mrs. D. said that she did very well considering, that she had quite a bit of music too.

I'm a K. P. server tomorrow. I don't have to get up until 4:30 and will be done serving by 6:15. (1½ hrs.). I serve again at noon 10:30 - 12:00 (1½ hrs.) and evening 3:30 - 6:00 (2½ hrs.) - This includes eating first too. I'll probably be on regular K. P. Friday. It takes 200 men to run the kitchen. Ser. F. has to furnish 65 of 'em. That only leaves about 20-25 for

other detail work. There haven't been many infected the past few days so ~~no~~ new men to do it. When there is a lot of help why it leaves little for each one to do.

Guess I'll have to close now. I'm writing this at the Y.M.C.A. on the Post. Went swimming tonight with Joe. (Joe. Rousselot from Kansas City, Kansas).

P.S. How's the undershorts
Coming. ~~don't send them till~~ Love to all
I'm in basic if this reaches you Jim.
in time.

September 7, 1944

JIM

HI KIDS!

It's only 2:45 P.M., but thought that maybe I would be better off if I use any time now.

As a K. P. server today, I didn't get to sleep until 4:30 but until 4:15 I had to be in the mess hall at 4:45. After breakfast I helped the latrine orderlies clean up the latrines. I think that latrine duty is among the best. The man thinks he may be on a shipping list today. If he leaves tomorrow or the next day he hopes to have the job. Work like that is a "special duty" and doesn't rate K. P. etc.

It was pretty chilly here this morning. They called us out about 8:30 and we went snipe hunting. That is policing the grounds, picking up cigarette butts and papers. There are quite a number of servers and few butts so it doesn't take long. We then learned a little about digging and marking. This afternoon after policing the grounds we went over by the stream for a lecture. The Sgt. who was to give it had a cold and a sore throat and only talked the last ten minutes when the 1st Sgt. came walking up. We talked the rest of the time.

I have heard that there are 259 shipping orders in for Co. B. - How many of these are for section F I don't know. It may be that I won't be around here much longer.

After you're here 7 days you are eligible for a week-end pass. If I haven't shipping orders

Saturday then I'll try to get one. I could be free from 4:00 P.M. Saturday until 7:00 or 8:00 A.M. Monday morning. I suppose that I could get home. If not I'll go to Kansas City with Joe as he lives there. We talked it over but 250 orders would come all y Co. B. just abouts.

Shirley, - Bill Owen was shipped last evening. He was the only one in his group - he left here alone. It looks as if he is in something besides the infantry.

Del Ryder left in a group about two days ago.

I saw Gordon Shultz in the mess hall today. He is cutting meat everyday in the mess kitchen. Guess he likes it.

I don't have much time and I want to wash out some stuff before I go to serve, so will close now.

I'll be hearing from you - Hope.

Love,

Jim.

Sept. 7, 1943 - 6:25 P.M.

[1944, Sept. 7]

JIM

Dear Shirley,

I just wrote you all this afternoon, but learned so much I thought I would write again.

They called us all out this afternoon late and read off about 100 names. We are all on shipping order No. 5, and shall probably leave tomorrow evening. Nobody knows for sure but I think it will be about 6:00 P.M.

I suppose that the S. T. U. will have to furnish mess attendants for the next few days until a few new men arrive in company B. All of this week the greater majority guys have been on K. P. on Monday and K. P. servers the next. Tomorrow is K. P. again. ~~God~~ how I hate it.

I'm not going up to the Post this evening. I washed out some stuff and shall try to go to bed early. I may go over to the P. X. on the R. C. for a while.

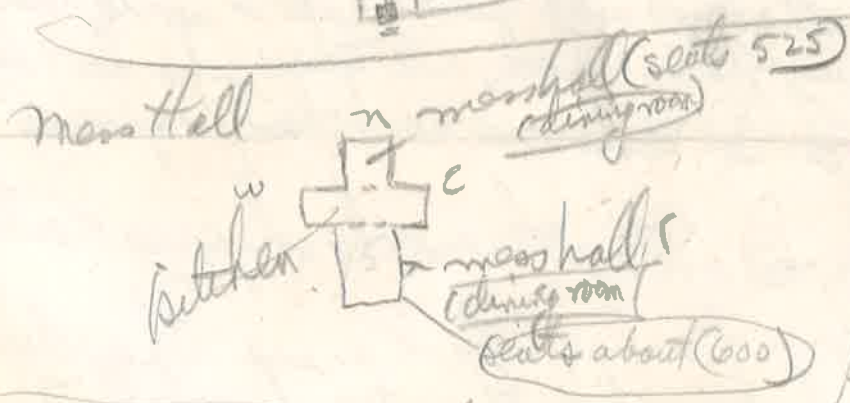
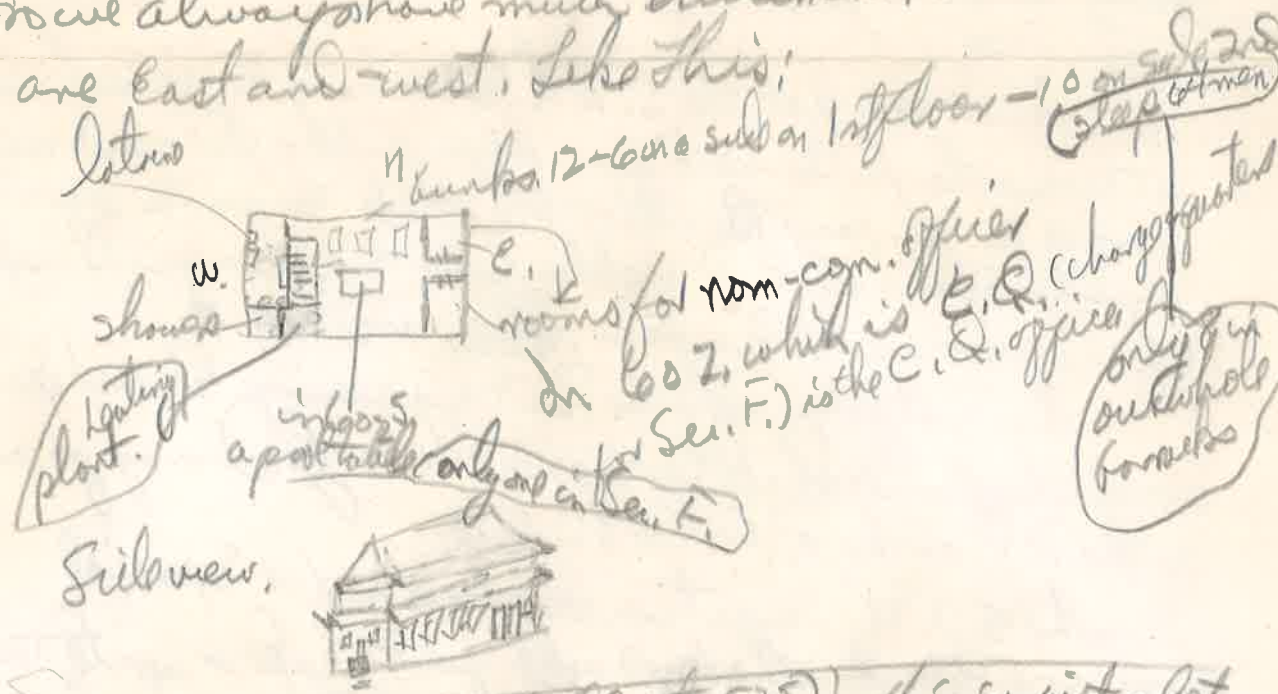
The S. T. U. mentioned above is for Special Training Unit. The boys who can't read or write, those who haven't gone very far in school, and those who don't do much on their I. Q. tests are sent there for special training.

Joe, Melvin, I are together on the shipping roster 5. Both are from Kansas City, Kansas. They didn't go to the same school so didn't meet each other until they came here. I meant Joe in the little theater here on the R. C. after we got our I. Q. clothing. I was playing the piano & he came up - plays the saxophone. He already had become acquainted with Melvin Couch.

and I meant him through Joe. Both are small yellows.
 Joe's last name is Rousselot (Rue'-so-low) [he is
 French] We are going to try to stick together for a while
 if we can. — Hope so.

Also two other birds from Wayne Neb. — a
 Melvin Johnson and Al Syndel. I've been to shores
 with them quite a bit. There are many others but I'm
 not quite so chummy with them.

There is a pool table in the bottom floor of our barracks
 so we always have much excitement. The barracks
 are East and West. Like this:



This is just a lot
 of stuff I've always
 said or forgot to
 say. — Love to you all.
 Don't write now
 until I tell you

all ^{ag} again. By the time the letter caught up with me
 I would have already been able to get in touch with you.
 Tell the Hastings kids & Mrs. Burgea. Please.
 Love Jim.

September 7, 1944

Hi Kids!

It's rather hard writing on a Pullman car, but thought that I had best drop you a line.

I was on K. P. again yesterday about 2:30 P. M. all on shipping orders tho. I was called out to their C. Q. We were told to be ready to ship in an hour. I rushed upstairs (I slept slept on the upper story) packed my barracks bag, put on my sun tans, and ^{placed} my mess kit silverware into my pocket. It was after I had been in line that orders came we would not ship until 5:30.

After eating we boarded buses and went into the station at Leavenworth. I am now on a troop train with about 230 others. Some of us are in troop sleepers and the rest in Pullman's. I am in a

Pulman.

(2)

We went from Leavenworth into Kansas City, where we were for two or three hours. Nobody could lead the train. We then pulled out in a southwester direction. I was asleep all night in my berth but I hear that we went through Topeka. We have been traveling through Oklahoma most of the day now. It is 1.50 P.M. I see by a map one boy has that we are better than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through this state.

Nobody knows where we are going, but it looks like Texas. I'll let you all know in a day or two.

The country looks much like Nebraska. The soil has a great deal of red tinge to it in many places. Everything seems to appear to be dry, anyway in places.

The train has several cars, six I believe, plus a kitchen car. A couple cooks

(3.)

[1944, Sept. 9]

from the Reception Center. We eat on paper plates; we ~~eat~~^{drink} from paper cups.

Shirley, how was the first week of school? Hope to hear that you are coming along with much ease in everything. Happy to hear about Lala Lee. Have you seen Miss Smith as yet? Tell her hello for me if you do. Also Mr. Celestine Brooks - do you know any of the flow down.

In a letter I received from Ruby Dunbar the other day she mentioned that Loring Kelso is showing off a new "ring". He's a corporal at the G. I. Base; from Bridgeport, Conn.; named "Bud" Wise. I was introduced that evening I stopped into Kelso's for five minutes; (???) he seems to have quite an Eastern accent!

Dunyea said, "Bud Wise - wiser than
Gordon Schultz is also on this train
but he is in another car."

I suppose that Syd will be there from
Orange this coming week. Tell him "Hi!"
for me, and Clara et family "So long."

If it might interest you and exercise
one of our family maps we have, to
my best knowledge been in Kansas City, Mo.;
Topeka; Caldwell, Kansas; La Reno, Okla.;
~~and~~ Enid, Okla.; Chickasha, Okla.;
and we are now stopped in a little
jerky water called (now that the train
has started with a jerk I see it is just
a watering station - Oh Woe!). I
do know this that I am on the
Rock Island R. R.

Guess that this shall be all for now.
I shall write when I am better informed.
Also, I'll let you know when you may
write. *Egg semper amo tu.*
P.S. *Being Lays Cotton*
Sells now. *Jimm.*

September 10, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

I guess that I wrote a little soon on the train yesterday. We went on into Fort Worth, arriving there about 6:30 P.M., and laid over for nearly two hours. We moved Northwest about 43 miles to a fair sized town called Mineral Wells. (In the camp also ^{called} Mineral Wells - Veneval Wells - Ha). I guess that it is the home of "crazy-water crystals".

This camp is Camp Wolters, Texas. I knew that we might come here. Joe was on duty once in the orderly room at Leavenworth and we heard some non-com talking about Camp Wolters. He let me & bits that he knew where we were going. I took the bet to find out what he knew. Guess he did. The officer on the train didn't tell us until after we had left Fort Worth.

The camp is here for Infantry Basic, either six weeks plus special training, or seventeen in infantry basic. There are many different things the infantry offers. The barracks are just like those at Ft. Leavenworth only finished nicer. There are not quite so many cots & bunks either. We have a place to hang our clothing and shall be issued foot lockers sometime this week. It will certainly be a relief to stop living out of a barrack's

bags. The dishes silverware at Kansas were
(two clean); it is here.

The mess hall is also much nicer here too. We have honest to god brass plates instead of those damnable steel things like we had at Leavenworth. We stand at the table until everybody is in and then eat. The food is served by K. P. table waiters. Joe is an K. P. today; he was only one at Kansas so can't say that I feel sorry for him. Basin doesn't start for a week or so yet so shall probably have at lots K. P. etc. After Basin starts the Corporal said that we would have an average of: two watch or guard duties; three or four K. P.'s, K. P. server every nine or ten days. That's over a period of seven or eight weeks. Of course the barracks will have to be cleaned, scrubbed, and the grounds polished.

I am told that after ten days of basin we can get passes to go into Mineral Wells. Also week-end passes into Fort Worth and Dallas. A boy was just saying that you can stay overnight in the Ft. Worth Service Club for 50¢. Meals are free.

The corporal said that we could have today off unless we are on K. P. - Am going to chapel at eleven o'clock. The Corporal said: "You'll be on a train for 30 hours. Go open the goddam windows and go out and get a good long look at Texas Sun."

I am certainly glad to be in such a small, clean looking camp. At least it isn't a "hole". You are not to write until I tell you so as you will not be permanently stationed in a C. P. until next week, we'll let you know when to write - Love Jim.

Camp Walter, Texas
September 11, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

This is my writing time from now on as far as I know. It is 12:30 noon.

We got up at 6:00 P.M. + washed, dressed, 6:30 morning chow - they cleaned barracks + policed grounds. We eat noon chow about 12 P.M. and afterwards shall probably have sometime (20 min. or so) also, every hour we get a ten-minute break so shall probably try to write cards etc. to people - blow my nose - hitch my pants - tie my shoes - Ha!

This morning we had $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. of physical training. It was mostly bending arms and legs. Then, we policed the P.X. grounds. - Had some instruction and drilling and the salute. It's now noon. This afternoon we were to go swimming but it is a little chilly today; it looks as if it might soon rain.

Yesterday afternoon (Sunday) I washed out some things and wrote letters. I went over to the P.X. after night chow. It is certainly a dump compared to the one at Leavenworth. However, I hear better even yet than most camps have. I went to the show later. Saw "The Impatient Years". I was kind of - funny. The theater here in our area is not as nice as the one on the post at Leavenworth but is good to hear in and see in.

yesterday morning I went to chapel. It is much the same as others I've seen. Am inclosing a program. The organist isn't much better than I. In fact about like Mrs. Wells. The Chaplain is a southern man. The picture on front is a interior view of the chapel. The organ is in the choir loft. I asked and got to play it for five minutes or so after the service. It was interesting but thinks I shall stick to pipes.

I have no other news. Think I shall be in H. P. tomorrow but can't tell.

You still cannot write and I'll let you know when you can.

Love
Jim

P.S. I have not been issued a foot locker yet, but shall probably get one this week. If you can I wish you would try to buy a padlock for me for it; that way I can keep it locked. Try anyway if you please.

Shank
(call it a present if you like - Ha!)

P.S. Keep this program for me surely!
Jim

Camp Walters, Texas
September 12th 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

I received your letter today mother. So now you wrote to Leavenworth last Thursday. I got it this noon in the Kitchen. I was on K.P. today finishes K.P. for the first platoon for a while. Tomorrow the second platoon will get their turn. I guess that 500 or more new men will be in tomorrow morning so they will get their turn.

I was surprised to hear that Paul was down. He probably couldn't stand it not to prove. I suppose that when he is drafted he'll try to get into the Navy.

K.P. here isn't as bad as at Leavenworth. The hours are shorter and we can eat between meals. We were off this morning to be classified and this afternoon to get some information concerning the soldier vote. This evening I've been playing volleyball over in Company C.

Yesterday afternoon we drilled a bit more and then ~~did~~ and washed uniforms in the barracks. Last evening I went to the Service Club. There was nothing doing so came on back.

I suppose that I'll be moved yet sometime this week - probably next Sunday. In the 66th Battalion there are four companies. A.B.C.+D. - Each Company has four platoons (1 barracks). Thus each

Company has 4 barracks, one supply and orderly
room, and a kitchen — P.S. also a grade guard.
The corporal in charge of 1st Platoon is Cpl. J. J. J.
He is really swell. — when we march his voice
is so loud he drowns out all the other platoon
leaders.

Hope that you are still looking for a padlock.
I'll be with you soon, also. I can keep my
stuff more safely.

I guess that today's Tuesday so suppose that
Shirley is at Symphony. Be sure to write and
tell me all about it. Also, how about some
school news. I'm just mentioning these things
so that you can write them when I have an address.

As far as I know this is all I have to say
so shall close. I want to take some cleaning
to the P.X. — there is a cleaner there.

Love
Jim.

September 13, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

It's only about 4:00 P.M. and we are already off for the day. Today has been a hot one under the Texas sun.

This morning we had a short period of physical training, then I marched the rest of the time. We had a long time of this now but didn't know it. We waited a hour for chow as the new men hadn't arrived yet. Finally we ate and then they arrived.

This afternoon we had a long period of physical training. It was much more difficult, then we marched some more. It certainly was hot. The ten minute breaks were well earned - most of 'em were 15 or 20 minutes long.

In our basic field manual are eleven general orders for a person on guard duty. Everybody is supposed to know them. I learned five of them today. Spent about twenty minutes doing it so guess I got the rest of 'em this evening!

They announced that we would now all stay in Company B, of the 66th for sure so I shall expect to hear from you soon now write to me the same as my return address is.

I don't know what I'll be doing this evening. I've seen most of the shows in camp. Love it!

hang around.

I was over to the Rk. last evening. I saw that my money was getting low. I asked about Traveler's checks but found that they couldn't cash any — are not allowed to. I am going to find out about the bank here. — Hope it can. — Otherwise I'll have to wait until I go into town about the 27th. However, I might have you send some. If I want you to I'll write and let you know for sure.

I don't know if I ever told you about the service club at Fort Leavenworth. It was a large building with a lunch room — fountain — pool room — library and a large room full of easy chairs with a dance floor. Around this was a balcony with chairs. The main feature for me was a Steinway grand. It was a newer model than ours; however, the case was identical smaller and the legs were a little more modern.

I see that I have just enough time to shave before chew so I shall close.

B. Write

Love
Jim.

(7)

SERVICE CLUB



Camp Wolters, Texas

September 13, 1944

Hi Kidd!

again I write on the same day. This evening I went up to the service club, Averb. There is very seldom anything going on so I took life easy. They have some nice easy chairs, something like ours. also, they furnish writing paper and pens. I wrote to Aunt Lois and Edna. Rod wanted to leave so we went to the P. V. and I bought a bottle of ink. It is blue - I think - and that which was in my pen is black so it probably accounts for this two-toned effect.

When Rod and I left the club I put some paper in my pocket. I thought that it might interest you. also I asked the hostess about travel checks and got one cashed. I can get my cleaning out of hock now.

We can get our laundry done for \$1.50 a month. There is a limit of twenty five pieces per week. a pair of socks counts as one piece. A suit and underwear as two etc. It looks as if with handkerchiefs and all I might have to wash out my nose rag myself. Some of these guys never will begin to fill their limit.

This evening after chow we had our names printed on our helmet liners. Pretty white letters on a drab green. I guess we will use steel helmets over them only on maneuvers etc.

[1944, Sept. 13]

(2.)

SERVICE CLUB



Camp Wolters, Texas

this camp is for D. R. I. C. - Infantry Replacement
Training {Center} {Corps} - take you no picks I don't know for
sure.

One thing I have lost nearly all track of is
the war. The paper boys come around in the morning
and in the evening. I seldom buy one if I'm around
for if I do I don't have time to read it. Here in
camp they print and place on display in the
barracks a sheet of paper called "The War". It
is mostly head lines and a paragraph or two.
Yesterday we heard that the allies are six miles
into Germany. Everybody, especially the older
men, always joke about seeing if the war is
over yet.

This training I am in lasts seventeen weeks
and starts next Monday the eighteenth. We
will not be through until sometime next
January. If F. D. R. is right about the war
being over in early '45 I might be home to
celebrate V-Day. I'm hoping to get a ten-day
furlough when my basic is over. However,
they promise us nothing.

I can think of nothing more to gab about
so shall close now.
P.S. Don't forget to write

Love Jim

(C)

SERVICE CLUB



Camp Wolters, Texas

September 14, 1964

Hi Kids!

Well, today was another eventful one.

Last evening I mailed your letter and started back to my barracks to go to bed. I was sidetracked however and stopped to talk to a couple of D's from Kansas City, Kansas. I know neither of their names. As the fellows came in they stopped to chat until the crowd grew. Finally a T-5 came along. We all talked for a while and finally broke up. He invited me to his room so I went and had a nice talk. He's a screw ball and lots of fun. I had slept for three hours when I got a K. P. call. I was surprised as 1st Platoon had all had a turn. I guess that everyone else in CO B. had just arrived.

I blamed T-5 Link today; he is a cook in our mess hall. He said ~~where~~ when he heard about some 9th Platoon being put on K. P. he thought it would be just about my luck.

A T-5 is a Corporal or Technician or Sec. 5th gr. - his Mac DeLaw's brother is a T-5 - also P. Nicholas' Uncle Mac. It is the same rank as corporal - some money only shows a special skill.

[1944, Sept 14]

(2)

SERVICE CLUB



Camp Wolters, Texas

This afternoon we had freshman orientation. Major Pitre (Pee'tree) the head of Battalion 66, gave us a welcome talk. He wended on for about forty-five minutes and didn't say a thing except - hello - he knew we would like it here - would love the office - and if over 18 when we finish Basic would have to be cannon fodder.

I am going to go to the 9 o'clock show tonight. There are so many in Co B. now that there are not rations to go around. Some even have to use their mess kits as they are not enough dishes. They will be moved in a few days.

Have you sent the music to Rachael and Barbara? Wish you would
flaw to close now.

Love
Jim

Rachael Shobert
Du Bois, Pa

Bob Clark
48 West Vine
Oberlin, O.

JIM

Pvt. James H. Bastian, Jr 37751376
Co. B. - 66th Inf. Eng. Bn.
1st Platoon
Camp Walters, Texas
September 16, 1944

Hi Kids!

It looks like I have another address again. Maybe I have a different one in a day or two or three. At any rate take a look at my return address once in a while and act in accordance.

Yesterday morning we had a half hour physical training and then drilled until noon. (About $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours). During the afternoon (all git) we had "freshman orientation". This time we had given a roster of speakers, 1st Lt. Black, our company commander led off, also his executive officer, administrative officer, supply Sgt. etc. We heard a lot about the methods and cycle. We were then broken up into platoons by alphabetical order. I'm a "b" and so am in the first platoon. We have all A's, B's, C's, D's, and one E. Each ~~squad~~ platoon has four squads. I'm in squad number ~~two~~ ^{two}. After chow we moved. I had to bring all of my stuff down stairs. Some had to lug their down stairs, the length of four barracks and upstairs in their new place.

Last evening I was going to write letters. Some guys thought we would go to the Service Club to do it. In the meantime Rod and I went over to the P.X.; I was going after my first cleaning. We saw T-S List and I consented to play for him. I knew that it might come sooner or later. The juke box was so loud at the club that we went to the recreation hall. There is an old

upright in the "rec." hall, but it is still nicer playing than the little spinet in the small service club. I guess that the large service club has a small grand; I'll have to get up there sometime. I played for so long and then we all had a "bull session", so I am writing this letter today.

I started this letter before noon chow, wrote some after, before night chow, now it is 11:20 P.M. and I am finishing up by the light of the silver moon.

This morning we had an hour of physical training. Every platoon takes off their jacket and undershirt, and helmet. Then we form a very large circle and run a while. In between exercises every body continues to walk so that way we don't cool off and chill. I like the idea. After that we came back to the barracks. We had been issued a tent half - first aid kit - canteen belt - gas mask - and pack yesterday; today we got our rifles. Nobody knows much about them yet. So far they have been locked up in a rack. I guess that we get full instructions next week.

This afternoon we had some more "freshman orientation". We were all taken to the 3rd theater and their address by about ten Army officers and one Red Cross Man.

This evening I went to the PX. - Bought some P. & H. to do washing. - also a sewing kit. & two pairs of soap. - also got another sweater from the cleaners.

I guess that this is all for now.

I've received your letter here all of which were sent to Leavenworth. Let's hope our mail isn't too slow.

P.S. send me a magazine as soon as it comes. also have a foot locker now so can use a padlock. Love Jim.
Thank.

Camp Walter, Texas
September 17, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

Here's another day gone again.

This morning everybody slept at least until seven o'clock. At seven-thirty we had a very light breakfast. Those who wished slept late and didn't eat. I had to clean up and then lubed my shoes with dubbing as the camp prescribes.

There are two services in the morning at our chapel. The one at 10 00 (10 o'clock) is like Sunday School. The one at 11 00 (11 o'clock) is morning church. The church didn't go at all well with me this morning. The One of the fellows I went with is a Presbyterian too and didn't care for it either; last week, however, it was nice.

This afternoon I went on the bus up to the U.S. Theater no. 1 - also the main service club and a large gym. The show I saw was a killer, "Arsenic and Old Lace". It was the craziest thing I ever saw. Really funny and with a few thrills too. Because the show didn't get out sooner we ate at the PX - Ice Cream - Sandwiches - and pop. I also had a pie.

This evening I waited my turn at the laundry tub and washed out a few things including my fatigues. I'll certainly be glad when we are issued the rest of our equipment and laundry service begins. I guess I can send my first stuff to the laundry next Friday.

I also had to lace up my leggin today. Tomorrow morning our cycle starts and we have to dress the part of a foot soldier. They will take quite a while to put on for a few days I suppose. I think that they look pretty nice on marching legs but seem to be all alone thinking it.

I had to keep this up, but I noticed this evening as I washed some of my underwear out that I'll keep some soon. Hope you can get four or five of the shots. If not why I'll try here in a couple of weeks when I can go into town. I have my stuff in my foot locker now. I'm going to ask Lisk if he'll keep my watch if I think the training is too tough on it. He has a private room and a lock in his locker. Anyway if you cannot find a lock I'll have to get along without.

I still have received no mail from home. Joe R. hasn't either and is getting a little homesick we all think. He is who I went to the show with today; also, a kid whose name is Lusk and a Angelo Tortorilla. Both of these are also from K. C., Kans. - Tortorilla is a wop, but then so is Toscanini.

One of these days I'm going to send you an edition of the "Longhorn" our official S. D. newspaper. It is rather dry to me. The last number had some pictures of 91st bn. parades getting a "D. D. ing". They are like ours so will try to send it.

I guess that this is all for now. Hope to get a lot of news from all of you in a few days.

Love Jim.

Camp Walters, Sefar
September 18, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

Here I am again on the eve of a day in the kitchen. How could you guess that I'm on K. P. tomorrow. Since our cycle started today this is how it works. 7 K. P.'s are taken a day in alphabetical order throughout the company. That means K. P. about every five or six weeks. Each day four table waiters are taken from each platoon; they serve only ~~any~~ and go with the Company during the day. That comes about once every eight weeks.

This morning we started our basic training. We had a little physical training - some close order drill and three long lectures. Two of 'em were on First aid; the other, about Grenades. All of our officers were around today. 1st Lt. Black led the company; 2nd Lt. Beasley, Black's Executive officer handled first aid; 1st Lt. Smith, our field officer, talked on Grenades.

We had to fix up our light packs so spent my evening doing that, hanging up my Q. D.'s, and over to our P. K.

Today I received my first letters addressed to Walters. There was a card and two letters (all airmail). It was certainly good to get all the news. How did the boy from the Air Base work out? Is the new piano teacher there yet? Shirley, have you started your lessons yet? Sorry that you didn't make cassettes. I guess.

The news clippings were interesting. On back of the college kids were "Society Notes" of Iva Foreman and Virginia Kelso.

I guess I really have very little to say so shall close for now.

Love Jim

P.S. This might interest you.
The other day at mail call a boy got 13 letters. His mail had
been held up at his Reception Center back East.

Camp Wolters, Texas
Sept. 19, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

Today has been one of my longest days yet. It seemed as if we would never finish (14½ hrs.). Nothing went right but we did finally finish. I guess that I missed out on nothing too important so won't have to make anything up.

I went to the P.R. again this evening. Was going to get some cleaning but that department was already closed. I will need some more hangers anyway. Hope that they have some in the P.R. soon. Also I purchased a pair of scufflers. They have a composition sole and canvas. Are nice to wear around the barracks, to the latrine, etc.

Thank a lot for the lock and package. I got it in this afternoon & mail. Also, I received three this morning. Eddie wrote one of 'em; Aunt Lois dropped a card & said that is all. According to the paper the last explosion must have been quite a thing.

The lock works very well; everyone wishes they had one.

You all certainly do write me the best letters. I always get all the latest news; hope you keep it up.

The organ pictures were pretty good I thought, didn't you? Glad you sent on the others.

I want to know all about the boy you had from the air base. How did he do?

Shirley, don't be surprised if Joe Rousselot writes to you some day. He likes your picture and knows that you are always writing me a nice letter.

I see now why people in the service have very little to write. We are not to write about too much about our

training (military secrets) and the R.X., service club, and shows your letter.

In the 1st platoon we have a group of boys from the East. New York, Pa., and Jersey. Clara lives in Jersey. Up stairs is a guy who can imitate Donald Duck to a "T". Every night after lights go out he entertains every one up stairs for an hour or two. He sings, tells jokes, and everything. Right now I'm writing on the back porch. I can hear the guys up stairs calling, "What's that Donald?". Just now someone yelled, "Shut up & go to sleep you S.O.B's."

Maybe it wouldn't be such a bad idea so shall close now.

Hope to hear a lot more news.

Love
Jim.

P.S. Some one in Co. A. is digging a 6x6. Said he wished a certain Non-Com in a certain place. Ha! - Ha!

P.S. I don't remember if I've given this to you or not.

Pvt. J. H. B. Jr. 37751376

Co. B. - 66th Inf. Div. B.H. - 1st Platoon

Camp Walter, Texas.

note

66th Infantry Training Battalion.

P.S. I'm 2'00" now being put in all of the my watches. I'm dig. on my light boots. I can take full training. It's not strong enough.

P.S. Mom, you asked what I was in. I guess the honest thing you could be. no form 2's however, I'm to be trained as an infantry rifleman.

Sept 21, 1944

Hi Kids!

I'm not going to get to write much again tonight. Last evening I didn't even get to write.

We always, as a rule so far, get off at 5:40 P.M. The last two evenings however we've had something special on.

I still have to get cleared up and into bed; It's 11:20 now. Will tell you all the news as soon as I can.

Love Jim.

747. S. Bastian, 737
Co B - 66 Inf. Brig. 1st Platoon
Camp Walter, Texas



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Shirley Ann Bastian
808 West 12th Street 12th
Grand Island, Neb.



66th Infantry Training Battalion
CAMP WOLTERS, TEXAS

September 24, 1944

Hi Kids!

For Sunday I've had a very busy day. This morning after I had made my bed, brought in my last evening's washing, gilded my rifle, read the paper, and went to chapel. It was a better service this week than last week, but there still seemed something strange about it to me. It's not like a civilian church.

This afternoon I had a class (make up for the day I was on K. P.) on the make up of the Infantry. How the squads, sections, platoons, companies, battalions, regiments, divisions, armies, etc. are organized, after that I dusted off my gun for inspection. At 2:00 P.M. I went down to corporal's mess room and heard the symphony with him. I only heard the first hours worth as we had a platoon rifle inspection and barracks instruction at 3:00. Tomorrow is our ordnance inspection of rifles and everything we hope will be in order. Then I re-cleaned my gun barrel and checked wadded my bolt head, fixed up my light, field pack, put up my gas mask and rearranged my clothes in accordance with new regulations. Tonight I'm going to stay around area six. I want to get off some letters and get to bed.

early.

I was glad to get the passion play program and news clippings. Was sorry to hear about Dr. Sater but know that it is best.

Shirley, I was certainly happy to hear about your music, glee club and all. Write and tell me about Evans and your Flute, Miss and your piano etc. How did the "Push On" go the other day. I'll bet you found out as I did that it's sometimes a hard thing to keep the kids singing right to.

How did the Norfolk game go Friday evening? Hope we won and that you had a good time on the trip.

Now I guess that you are even with me. We have a thermostat on our heating system here too. Hope ours is at home works ok. and that the house temperature doesn't keep on changing like Nebraska weather.

Don't feel too badly if you don't hear from me this everyday this coming week. They tell us that we are to have two night problems. One is on Wednesday I think. Also I think we'll have a S. I. - party one more evening and shall most likely have shots another evening. I do know that we have to get up an hour earlier tomorrow. 1st Platoon is host tomorrow for glare inspection. All of the Co's rifles will be looked over in our barracks. We start to receive rifles at six in

[1944, Sept. 24]







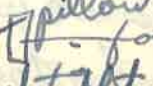


66th Infantry Training Battalion
CAMP WOLTERS, TEXAS



2.

the morning.

Our barracks are certainly arranged in strict order. Almost as bad as I kept my room at home. Maybe it wasn't such a bad idea however as it is no chore now. Our beds are placed in the following manner: foot lockers.

1. one alone  + a double  one alone  double 
2. in a row the heads alternate 
3. they are made  pillow  foot lockers.

The pillow is smooth & sheet tight - the blanket is tucked in at foot with hospital fold at corners. Strip in it side so tight that you touch it near foot & it shivers up to pillow.

4. foot lockers at foot.
5. gas masks hung up  + 6. helmet liners on shelf. 

7. clothes in following order (not. show out all buttons buttoned. ① rain coat. ② overcoat ③ o.d. coat ④ field jacket ⑤ o.d. shirts w/ pant concealed ⑥ d. trousers ⑦ herringbone twills (fatigues) ⑧ towel + washcloth.

Use kangaroo barracks bag on the wall. I put the empty box you sent me in mine to hold sides out a ways. Also put dirty cloths into it. (box). We send our laundry in one barracks bag.

Today was our first cool day since I came to Texas. It seemed more like September. It doesn't snow here (small flakes now & then, one during winter), but gets down to about 50° for average low.

This past week the weather here has been like the middle of the summer in Nebraska - even hotter.

There are some hills around here and in the distance they look quite beautiful. The soil is very sandy in this part of the state however. It also reflects heat right through your shoe soles quickly.

I guess that this is all for now.

Shall try to write several notes this coming week.

Love
Jim

¹ P.S.
man, who is Clarence
B. that you said
was here from D.D.
I don't think I know him
let me know.

² P.S. Enclosed is a little pamphlet.
Say hello for me in my room.
Look it over. It doesn't say
much but is handy to a trainee.

①

Camp W alters, Tefar
Sept. 22, 1944

it is an "n"

JIM

Note!

my address is:
Pvt. J. B. Jr. 37751376
Co. B. 66 Inf. Reg. B.C. - 1st Platoon
Camp W, T.

Hi Kids!

Everybody here says that you can't win, and I'm beginning to believe it myself. I thought I would get around to write sooner, but it is now about 10:05 P.M.

This week our basic training began. We get up about six - dress - make our bunks - go to latrine - eat - morning detail (my squad is to police around our barracks and the south half of the parade grounds - I sweep the company street in front of our platoon - a heavy broom on the sand). At 8:00 A.M. we fall out, usually for some physical training, close order drill, marching, lectures, and training films. We eat at noon and then start on the same stuff, except physical training, and go until about five. Then comes our second mail call, the first one is at noon, chow, and once in a while the evening is ours.

Last Wednesday evening I thought I'd clean up and rest. We had to fall out at 6:30 P.M. and march to the dispensary for shots. I had a triple typhoid shot and another smallpox vaccination. They had the whole 66th over there and it took until about 9:30 or 10:00 P.M.

Last evening I wanted to wash clothes, clean up, dub my shoes and rest. Since the 1st squad did such a classy job cleaning the barracks for inspection we had to do the place - wash windows - dust off everything - and scrub the latrine. I took windows - volunteered as it is easier. We then had an inspection at 9:00 P.M. Since our Cpl. was having a bull session when H. Koser came around he looked over all of the other Co. B. platoons first. We finished

about 9:55 P.M. - Lights out at 10:00. ②

This evening I decided I'd be lucky to have five minutes to go to the P.X. for a bottle of pop. I guess I didn't miss it for. There are three or four "f.u.'s" who never fall in until late. Then they cut into ranks and get in the wrong place. This makes the 1st platoon the last one to fall in and the C.O. (Company commander) has called the Co. to attention before we are ready. Cpl. Natoli got sore today and had Pvt. Rosenhazy (he was a bulk sgt. like Black but told a st. to go) - anyway he is lusted. - now is Cadre here) have us practicing falling in and out for a half hour. I then made my bed - sent in my laundry - dusted shoes - shined civilian shoes. Arranged foot locker - shave - bath - P.X. (outside camp)

This morning we had a training film on bauxite areas and took a nick and one-half to a two mile hike. We carried our rifles at "right shoulder arms" and wore our light packs. I don't mind walking at all - it doesn't tire me - the pack is light 10 or 15 lbs. - but the rifle gets me down, it isn't heavy but with it in position my arm goes to sleep. We then had a period of physical training - a lecture on disease and bauxite area water - close order drill with our rifles. This afternoon we practiced for a future inspection learning how to hold our arms (guns). Then we had a lecture on chemical warfare (gas mask) and a training film on the same. Then we had a lecture on first aid.

Today in the mail I got a package from Mr. Sweetland. It held a nice little testament with the Psalms. Also yesterday I received a letter from him. So Virginia Kelso sent me a letter; I had written her a congratulatory note on her engagement. - also I got one from Maggie Doebel.

JIM

you asked about the music for Barbara and Rachael. I thought that is was with the next gym music on the end table by the dining room table. However, it might be on the table by the piano-chair. Barbara is to have the two books of Piano Exercises (Wichmayer's = 5-Finger Exercises and Exer. for the passing under of the Thumb.) also (Bach - Easy Preludes and by Wichmayer.) Rachael is to have the manuscript of the "The March of the Wooden Soldiers" and "The Andy-Gurdy Man". It is the one with pencil marks on it (some of 'em red.) I hope that you can find them. you send Rachael's music to her in ShuBris, Pa. (or ask Miss Pinder for it) - Send Bob's to 48 West line, Oberlin, Ohio. (Maybe you had best ask Miss Pinder for it too.)

I was certainly happy to hear that Capt. Wilson got you a helper. Hope he was "on the ball" and got the job done.

Virginia Kelso asked me to play for her wedding. It will not be for at least two years yet. He is going overseas I think and they want to wait till the war is over. Guess he is more optimistic than most Army men are. Anyway I have one job when the war is over.

Tonight we got the good news that Co. B. would fall out for newll starting tomorrow. we have to be in front of the barracks at 6:10 P.M. dressed in our helmet liners, hemminghose tunics (fatigues), leggins, so shall have to close.

Our leggings look nice on marching feet as far as I'm concerned. Most of the guys don't like them but guess I was born to be screwy and do. They keep my point leg from catching on stuff when we march and my feet don't get so dirty.

I started this thing when lights went out. I'm with several others in the latrine. We sit on the toilets and write. One boy wrote his gal, "I'm sitting on the toilet in the latrine so hope that this letter doesn't stink."

Oh, by the way - I would like ^{it} if you would send my brown leather writing set to me, and about five good sturdy coat hangers. Also, Shirley's tinted picture (you know?) is in either the brown or blue one. Send her picture in the brown one please.

The P.O. was out of toilet soap for about a week. So was I. I finally got a bar of P. & G. and went to ~~town~~ ^{town}. Last evening, Cpl. Natali got 12 bars of Lux + I got one of him so am o.k. now. The P.O. got some this evening (Co B's Co Q. had a few words to help us keep clean). But it is all sold out now. Maybe you had better send my Coughy to me too.

Our Cpl. Davidson was changed to the 3rd Platoon the other day. In his place we got Cpl. Natali, who is o.k. He is, however, strictly I.D. and I think was in first cycle. That means he has been in the Service almost 9 months. I'll bet this is his first cycle as a trainer. He was probably probably a trainer helper last cycle. Anyway he is a good joe. Guess that this is all. Will be awaiting the package. Love Jim.

Camp Wolters, Texas
September 23, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

I guess that my first week of basic training is finally over.

We had a full day today for Saturday. Usually on Saturday we get off earlier about noon. Today we went on until 5:00 P.M. Our platoon had to take its turn at evening detail so was busy until about 6:30.

Today we finished our first aid lectures. Had training films on chemical warfare and the paratroops.

This noon we had another practice inspection. Sgt. Beasley went through it with us. He told us when he finished that they looked like hell; however, that we hadn't been told to clean 'em yet. He also announced that Monday we'll have an ordnance inspection of arms.

That is pretty stiff as ordnance makes and maintains the guns and really know how to examine them. Tomorrow we are to have a company inspection just in case.

This evening I spent about an hour cleaning my rifle. I took it apart, brushed the parts, and applied a thin coating of oil. Hope it is ok. — suppose that Cpl. Natta will look them all over.

See you tomorrow

Love Jim

Camp Watters, Texas
September 25, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

Here I am again, late at night, at the end of a long day. This morning we had a little physical training. ~~Spent~~ a little time on extended order drilling. Then we took in a lecture on the foreign situation and a news reel.

This afternoon we spent all of our time until 4:30 practicing throwing hand grenades. We use dummies, but each threw a ~~practice~~ grenade today. It pops, but doesn't explode like real ones. Our last period we had a training film on map-reading.

I was going to get a lot done this evening but had to make up a class on interior guard duty that I missed once on K. O. I spent the rest of the evening rolling and firing my full field pack.

In a light field pack we have the carrier-tent shelter half (pup) - ^{mess gear} raincoat & entrenching tool - and Goya net. The full-field pack has all that plus a blanket and overcoat - (I suppose when we get our bunk & foot lockers on it we'll be ok.)

The rifle inspection this morning was really some stuff. All that they did was to check them for bad parts, - missing parts, & other repairs that only ordnance can make. Only one of the 350 rifles was dirty.

Shirley, you haven't written for about 5 or 6 days now. I'm sure that you're busy with your music, also am ~~troubled~~ troubled to find that you are on student council. I would like to hear however about the football, church, school news.

etc.

I'll be waiting for the package from Liddy. I'm certainly happy that she found the underwear. I'd never even thought of Hastings.

also shall begin looking for my coat hanger, ⁽⁵⁰⁰⁸⁾ writing set, Shirley's pictures, etc. from you. Don't it sound grabby though.

Say, you never did tell me how your (mom's & pop's) picture came out that you had taken. Would like one when you get your proofs. Not too large & with no glass frame.

I never did get a S. I. haircut, they don't require it. There is a rule about 2 inches long but on me it is enough.

I got a haircut at the P. X. last Saturday evening. It was a H. G. a job. They just clipped around the edge, collected \$5.4, & send you on your way. Next time I'm going after one of the fellows who cuts hair in another platoon.

Another thing different here from Fort Leavenworth is that around the Co. area you don't need a hat or necktie with your suitons. Pretty nice.

Guess that this is all for now.

Love Jim

P.S.

How about another jar or two of candy, please? I was certainly good to piece meal at. Everybody else liked it too.

Camp Wotless, Texas
September 26, 1944

JIM

Hi-Kids!

I guess that you can't train in the Army at five when we got off I thought that I would have a whole evening for a change but I soon found out that it was no soap. First came some long drawn-out instructions for fire drill and then a practice drill. At 7 I had to make up another period I missed out on last week in K.P. Then I cleaned my gun, went to the P.X., arranged my foot locker and now having shaved, showered, shampooed, and shined I'm writing one letter and hitting for bed.

This make up class was certainly a joke. We sat and told stories stopping everytime Gold bricks came along and in about twenty minutes we were released with orders to say that we had had an hour of make-up. One of the cadre with a make up class on "Sex Hygiene" called off the names, got them in a group, told them to put on a condom before they start and to tell any officers they had been lectured to for an hour. Then he went to town.

I had only two classes today. We spent the whole morning learning about booby traps. First we were told and then we divided into groups planting mines and traps and then recovering those of the other group. None of 'em were loaded but the fuses were in working order.

This afternoon we had some extended order drill.

Learned to "creep" and "crawl" through the grass with
our rifles. Also had the basin make up of the combat
squad.

Today with packages arrived. The underwear fits
to a T. Eddie put the plots in, just the right
way. Also thanks for the candy, paper, and
hangers. I finished putting the remainder of my
clothes up.

Was sorry to hear about the Norfolk game. I'll
bet from the line up you sent me that we will
not win too many games this year.

I don't believe I want any magazine subscriptions.
You see I don't have time as it is for anything extra
and it would be a waste. Also the recreation
hall is full of magazines the Camp puts there. You
can go in to the "Rec." hall anytime you wish and
in any clothes. The show, service club, require
only a class "A" uniform.

I doubt if I get to write tomorrow as we have
a night problem tomorrow evening.

Lots of Love
Jim

Camp Wolters, Texas
September 30, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

I guess that my night problems really took up the time.

Wednesday evening I received the rest of my clothing: a pair of fatigues, a pair of leggings, socks, etc. I spent the rest of the evening over at the dispensary waiting my turn for shots. I had another typhoid toxine and one for tetanus. Both were in my right arm and our whole platoon could hardly move the arms for the next day and one-half.

I think this was due to our damp weather. It rained here (a drizzle) on Tuesday, poured on Wednesday, we waited for our shots out side of the dispensary, rained a bit Thursday, was ok. yesterday, hotter than hades today.

Thursday morning we walked across town to a place called the "Deep hole" for our first class on map reading. That evening we had our first night problem. We left here at 8:00 P.M. and wandered all ~~over~~ ^{over} a nearby grove of trees for two hours. We practiced "cover" and "concealment" and crawled over ground through a trench, etc. When we got back we had a bunch of coffee and pie.

Yesterday (Friday) we another night problem. We left here at 7:00 P.M. and got back at 11:00. The first two hours we walked clear across camp and then around it

a ways to the going trees near here. They had a lecture on
bivouac areas and some practical work. After wards
a luncheon cake and coffee. It was indeed the 5 --- 5.
One boy in our platoon fainted dead away when we
stopped marching. He's O.K. now. My feet hurt but
can take care of 'em. I would like some moose skin
however as it will (I think) act as a cushion when
we have a scheduled walk & distance.

This morning we had more map reading, a show
on close order drill followed by practical work, and
some physical training. This afternoon was a command
rest. I cleaned my rifle and sat in the Br. theater
all people who could play sing, etc. were to report
there. Guess we are having a Br. show, but one not too
interested.

You mentioned my gun. We had two classes on it.
One on nomenclature and another on cleaning. It is really
easy to take apart, put together, clean and oil. I
take mine apart, brush the ports with an old toothbrush,
wipe them, oil them, and reassemble them. I just
touch it up & only wipe it off with an oil rag.
I have my most trouble with the bore. I brush it,
use bore cleaner in it, wipe it, oil it with a thin
coat and then hope it doesn't get dirty. Really I do
get quite a kick out of fooling around with the thing.
Tomorrow I'm on the table waiting roster. It is my turn
so guess I'll have to take it.

You asked about "Line" magazine. I just read the paper
about Mr. Gates today. I'm much to busy to read, I don't
have time so guess it wouldn't be practical. Thank
a lot for thinking of it.

JIM

I would appreciate you sending me the colored sock that Clare and Syd gave me one. They are wool. It will be ok. as they'll be covered by my shoes and leggings. Also if you could buy some brown (army) ones too. About five pairs. Walb's easier to walk in. I think that Walb's would have 'em. I not get some shade brown, grey, or white. I don't know the size for sure but I think about 11-(11½)

I got the package the other day. The socks etc. was most welcome. The something folders certainly convenient. Was glad to hear that the Army is drumming you up business in G.D. Did the Royal Chocolate Shop get notice? Lights are out now and I'm just about too. Sayon again.

Love Jim

P.S.

Defination:

a wolf.

"The fellow who pulls the wool over the sweater girls eyes."

Camp Walters, Texas
October 1, 1944

JIM

Hi Fanny!

I've now completed my first day's table waiting. On week days they only work until the company fall out and then they go with us. On week-ends the waiters stay in the mess hall all the time. Today we S. & D. the floor, tables, stove, ice boxes etc. I cut my thumb slicing spuds with knife for tomorrow's breakfast. One good thing is that I got off at 5:30.

This evening I went to the recreation hall but found it closed. I guess that since passes started that it isn't open Sunday evenings. I wanted to practice a little (just play) so went into Bn. headquarters. Our Cpl. ~~the~~ Natali was C. Q. (Charge Quarters) so got permission to play on the old wreck in the Bn. theater. I guess that it was the piano from the "Kai" hall moved over for our Bn. show sometime.

I hear from the cooks that we nearly always have a night problem on Friday night and usually another one during the week. At best I guess I'll have a little time this next week. I'll need it and will let you know why if there is it sometime.

I'm certainly sorry I missed out on Larry Scott. Guess that the family said enough to him to make up for it however.

This platoon of mine is a huy-dinger. Up over our front door we have the "best platoon" sign. It is awarded to the platoon in Co. B. with the best marks for inspection we've had all last week and hope to keep it.

upstairs are a lot of hillbilly singers, harmonica players, and "guitar" players. There is also a kid who can imitate Donald Duck to a "T". He talks and sings and you can hear all of the fellows laughing late into the night.

Some of the fellows are out this week-end on passes; others are out this evening on a class "A" pass. In order to go their rifle had to pass an inspection by a pop-com. and they had to throw a hand grenade into a bucket. One guy has his wife in town and tried for an hour so he could go into town to see her.

There is a rumor that we got paid on October 10th. Hope so. I should get something for September.

I guess this is all for now.

P.S. "When does the first Islander
come out?" Love
Jim

(2) Tell the people at Young Peoples
hello for me.

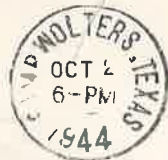
(3) I'll never get the chocolate chips sent home. You can only get them at a P.X. with a grocery department. Ours is about a mile and one-half from our outfit and closes at 5 P.M.

(4) I lost C.M. Kennedy Butcher's address; will you please send it to me?

Good Night

Pt. J. B. Bastian, Jr. 4751376
Co. B. - 66 Inf. Eng. Bn.
1st Platoon
Camp Walter, Texas

[W/1944, Oct. 1]



Free

Miss Shirley Ann Bastian
808 West 12th Street
Grand Island, Nebraska

Camp W Altus, Texas
October 3, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

The lights just went out and I'm munching the good cookies I received through the mail today and also trying to write. Thank Shirley so much for the home baking. After a month of the mess hall and P.X. pies they really hit the spot. The mess hall bake goods here really are not so bad but they still are much like a bakery product.

It is raining here again today. This morning we were to finish up our lessons on chemical warfare with some practical work, gas mask drill and going into the gas chamber. We got our masks out and adjusted them. About the time we were to fall out our C.O. of the Bn. said we would have physical training in our barracks. An hour later it was still raining and then he called a command rest.

Usually we have a command rest every Saturday afternoon. It stopped raining in a short while so we had two classes of map reading. I guess that we'll have to make up our three hours of chemical warfare next Saturday afternoon. I did get some equipment cleaned and a letter written to Aunt Lois so guess I used the time.

This afternoon we hiked across the field (camp) and sat on a hillside to hear a lecture on sending messages in the field. It poured so we got a break. Some of the fellows sing and harmonize (in my platoon) so we all entertain ourselves. Soon the sun came out.

This evening we had off (Army style). About six
we had an inspection prior to signing the payroll.
It is a test for V.D. etc. I'll tell you about it when
I get home. Then we had to hang around to sign the pay-
roll. After that I cleaned (super job) my ribband and oiled
it. It was only 9:00 so I put on a pair of shoes. After that
I went to the Co. Theater and played the piano a bit.

I am going to try to write several more notes this evening.

Last evening I had another (still) K.P. make up.

Since I had missed a training film I went and saw
all 9 of 'em over again. That way I was sure to get what
I had missed - more fun. I was so tired I went to
bed early. Guess it did me good as I'm not a bit
tired yet.

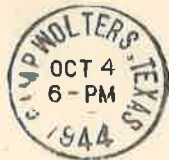
I'll be watching for you Dad. Let me know about when
you'll be here. If that is a might problem I sure but
in case of a Sunday K.P. or tab I'm sure I can fix
it up with the cooks. Maybe if it isn't later than
seven weeks from now I can have a week end pass.
That way I could go as far as Ft. Worth or Dallas.

By the way do you know anyone around here? Just
anybody (customers) in the Wells, Ft. Worth, or Dallas,
or Wetherford? Wish you would let me know.

Guess that this is all for now. Thank again for the
pastry Shirley. Will send you a thank you note when
the wool sack arrives. Wool is easier to walk any
distance in. Doesn't rub on shoe and get into so wet.

P.S. don't forget Cora Mae's address. Love Jim.
also May H.'s.

Art. J. L. Bastion, Jr. 37751316 [W/1944, Oct. 3]
Co. B. - 66 Inf. Sig Bn.
1st Cavalry
Camp Walters, Texas



Free

Mr. James L. Bastion
828 West 12th Street
Grand Island, Nebraska

Camp Wolsten, Texas
October 4, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

How goes everything?

Today we had our gas experience. Without our masks we ran through different gases and sniff sniffed. Then we tested our masks in a tear gas chamber. After we had our masks adjusted and a good cry we went into a chlorine filled chamber. I guess that the masks were all o.k. as we haven't sent in any dog tags yet.

This afternoon we had five periods of map reading. It was mostly a review.
This evening we had a Bn. Parade. It was in preparation for a regiment parade we are to have tomorrow evening.

I can just picture Shirley in a grass skirt. You bet your life I was a snap shot of you in it. Also, how did Paul and you make out the other evening? I'll not be surprised to hear anything.

Our 2nd Lt. Beasley. I hear is going to leave us next Monday. He is to be discharged. During a recent cycle he was in a mine explosion and lost an eye. Also I guess that he was pretty well bugged up all around. You can't tell it to see him walk. He is southern and certainly has a voice that carries. Some of the fellows in my platoon can imitate him even down to the southern "hep" for help. Somebody yells "attention" and this guy says "At Ease, men." Everybody certainly gets up on their feet.

I would appreciate some more "indies." at least two more pair and maybe four. They get pretty dirty in a days time and the laundry is sometimes two days late getting back. That means that all stuff being washed is away for four or five days.

I was glad to hear about Jean and Linda. So she is as big as Maggie Marrett. That's pretty big; she must be a true Bostonian.

Will you please send my little Moley card to me after you pay the dues? I would like to have it in my belt fold. You mentioned money. So far I have spent one travellers check and what I took with me. I've also used up a dollar or so & another "T" check. I don't have much to spend money for. I usually have a bottle of pop or two and maybe some ice cream every evening. Once in a while I skip night chow and go to the P.X. for a sandwich. They have 'em done up in cellophane. I buy razor blades - hand lotion, etc. - they finally get in some mum. I purchased some walkers a couple of weeks ago. They have canvas straps and composition soles. Are nice to walk around in.

I guess that this is all for now.

Love
Jim

①

Oct. Ha! Ha!
September 8, 1944
Camp Walters, Texas

JIM

Hi Kids!

Whats the new stuff today?

I've failed to write for quite a while now I see. Friday evening we had another night problem. It was the same march we had taken the week before only about a half-mile longer and no bivouac practice. I wasn't bothered at all by it. In fact when we got back at nine o'clock I ~~ran~~ went to the P.X. for some pop and ice cream.

We started "dry running" with our rifles this past week. On ~~Friday~~ ^{Thursday} we had a training film on sighting and aiming. Then we had a time at practical work. We first used a sight practicing instrument and took correct sight pictures ①. It is a long stick with an eye piece - rear sight - fore sight and bulls eye. Then we used our rifle on a stand with the bulls eye fifty feet away.

Saturday & Sunday we had training films on "position" and "trigger squeeze". We spent most of the day in practical work. I have the muscular control in my hands for the trigger squeeze but missed out on some of the position practice!

I had to go to the dental clinic - everybody does. After waiting for an hour it took a ~~total~~ ^{total} five minutes to tell me I had a perfect set of teeth.

Yesterday afternoon we had a dry inspection of our rifles. We had to have them cleaned, each part dry (without any oil), and each piece laid out on our bunks. I guess

that mine was o.k. We clean them by washing each part in very hot water and shaking 'em dry. I always use a soft cloth and remove 'em. After inspection I apply a very thin coating of oil and put it together again. All in all it is kind of fun.

After our inspection we S.I.'ed the barracks.

I was certainly glad to hear you had have the pictures. I think I would like the smaller, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5$, size in a leather folder. That would be the most convenient for me to handle and carry around. It will fit into less space in my foot locker.

I have been going to write to Mrs. Owens for quite a while but haven't had time this past two weeks. You see I was working last Sunday so haven't had any free time now for two weeks. I got a letter from Alma yesterday.

I received my package the other day. I came through fine. Hardly any of the cookies were broken. Much better than the last time. I certainly am enjoying 'em. The candy and nuts are handy to keep in my locker. The socks are fine. Now I can go a week without washing 'em.

My laundry allotment is twenty-five pieces a week. By this time I send my underwear, fatigue, towel, wash rag, leggins etc. I don't have anything left. One piece is a barracks bag. You have one washed each week as that also acts as a laundry bag. I either can send socks or nose rags and since socks are easier to get clean and their water is so hot I wash socks and send the other.

I inquired about S.I. foot powder. The Cpl. has used it but the supply got, said they were out of it and could not get any more. I sometimes use talcum powder.

[1944, Oct. 8]

JIM One of the fellows has come by "Parke-Davis". It's really nice. Maybe the Lincoln Army would have some. I don't need it very badly however.

Another thing I would like to have is our camera. The bullet one. I don't know if I can get film here for it. Before you send it, find out. If you can't get 'em there why John Bastian would something about films once. Maybe he can get that size. I'll have to take the camera to my 1st Sgt. and get a Camp permit, but then can send you me in my uniform, my barracks, my company area, and who knows what all. Let me know what you find out about the films.

This morning at Chapel we had communion. The camp chaplain was there in place of Area Six Chaplain. It was a nice service.

I suppose that our 75th anniversary is really coming along.

Last evening the Becker kid went into town. I had him get me a belt. It is lighter than the S.D. issue and has a shiny brass buckle.

I guess that this is all for now. Maybe I'll drop you a note this evening.

Love
Jim.

[Encl, 1944, Oct. 8]

Q. M. C. Form No. 374 (Old No. 207)
(Revised August 8, 1942)

Bundle No. _____ Mark or Pin No. B-1376

Date Oct 67 1944

QUARTERMASTER LAUNDRY

Name Pvt. J. G. Bastian, Jr.
CO. "B" 66th INF TNG BN

Co. _____ Org. _____ Bldg. T-921

Camp, Post,
or Station WOLTERS, TEXAS

----- Shirts, cotton, khaki.	----- Hats or caps, work.
----- Shirts, flannel, O. D.	<u>1</u> ----- Jackets or coats, work.
<u>6</u> ----- Undershirts, cotton.	<u>1</u> ----- Trousers, work.
----- Undershirts, wool.	----- Suits, one-piece, work.
<u>6</u> ----- Drawers, cotton.	----- Breeches, cotton, khaki.
----- Drawers, wool.	----- Trousers, cotton, khaki.
----- Union suits.	<u>1</u> ----- Cloths, wash.
----- Sweaters.	----- Towels, face.
----- Neckties.	<u>1</u> ----- Towels, bath.
<u>7</u> ----- Handkerchiefs.	----- Belts, web.
----- Socks (pair).	----- Gloves, (pair).
----- Pajamas.	<u>1</u> ----- Barrack bags.
<u>1</u> ----- Leggings, canvas (pair).	
----- Caps, garrison, field.	
----- Jackets, field.	

*This is a
laundry slip*

Lister

Claims for shortages must be made to organization laundry officer within 48 hours, accompanied by this laundry list. "Methods of adjustment of claims for loss or damage apply only to such articles as are issued to enlisted men." AR-30-2135.

Checker

Marker

Bundler

Camp Walters, Texas
October 9, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

Well, I guess I have a lot of news for you.

Yesterday at chapel we had a communion service. The chaplain of area six (our chapel) was away and in his place was the camp chaplain. It was a little different than ours in that you go forward for the food. The wine wasn't grape juice as the S.D. Presbyterians use but the real McCoy, a light wine like that "Cusablonka".

Last evening was my night. You know I mentioned I had been practicing a little. A week ago this past Saturday all people capable of entertaining had to report to the Battalion theater. I went along, but they didn't need me in the Bn. show. I did however land a place on the S.D. War Review Program at the main service club last Sunday evening (P.). It consisted of a lot of different stuff. I play "To the Rising Sun" & "The Little White Donkey". The latter went over best but all in all the S.D.'s were more interested in the Wacs. I ~~met~~ became acquainted with several people; one of the service club hostesses; a Jay Guy, who plays electric organ in a chapel - was a professional jazz artist. - also plays for all camp shows - is going (he hopes) into Special Service; a couple of boys who play. I guess maybe I'll get some good musical friends yet.

Before the program I was standing talking to Joe when a boy (S.D.) came up and asked me where I was from. It was Chick Berggren who used to live

in Grand Island. Shirley, you probably remember him;
he was a screw-ball, who played in the band. He
still lives in Denver - volunteered for the Infantry - is
in the 65th Bn. - It is about a ~~half~~ quarter to a half mile from
the 66th.

Today we spent the whole time in the field. We had a lecture
on patrol duty, on the pacing course, and had practical
patrol work this morning. This afternoon we had
work (practical) on patrols passing through villages, isolated
buildings, wooded terrain, streams, road junctions, and
cover & concealment in case of ambush.

This evening I tried on my O.D.'s for size. Everything
fits swell. One pair of pants ought to be taken in some.
I think we go into 'em next Sunday. My sunter all
are nice & fit swell so hate to leave 'em too.

So Gordon Shultz said it was cold. It is; at night
it gets quite chilly (you can see your breath in the morning),
but during the day it gets very warm. I think we are
going swimming tomorrow. - Maybe 1st Lt. Black,
our company commander said it never gets hotter than
in Texas, nor colder. However it very seldom snows.

I got a letter today from Mrs. Shupe. She said that
the mouse George & Louise put out was better than
Evan's band. She isn't impressed. Also not by Mrs.
Pace.

Guess this is all.

P.S. we have had no Platoon Sgt.
yet. Today Epl. Natali was promoted
to "bunk" Sgt. but Pvt. Rosenberg got his
Sgt.'s stripes back again.

Love
Jim

P.S.
Night Problem
Tomorrow night.
Hell!
won't wait.

Camp Walters, Texas
October 11, 1944

JIM

Hi Kids!

I don't know just what the deal here is. Last night we had our night problems on anti-tank and personal mines. We had a lecture first and then went into the field for practical work. The whole company was divided up into groups. I laid, first, a mine and booby trapped it. Then later went to another section and probed for mines. One time before I dug 'em up so didn't have to last evening.

The entire time allotted to the problem was six hours. Co. H. the night before had been out until 4:00 P.M. the next morning; we got in about 11:30 P.M. ~~Since~~ Today we had a command rest from 11:00 until tomorrow morning. However, we had to get our rifles and bayonets cleaned for an inspection etc. I was going to go into Mineral Wells this evening but we are restricted for shots. If I don't have any, I'm free to go; if I do, I have to stay here in camp.

I wanted to look the tower over. Margie Goebels' birthday is coming up and I wanted to get her something. Also maybe at some time or another I can get some trinkets for you all.

With all the woolen socks my feet really feel fine. When they do get a little sore I apply some talcum powder and they feel ok. I asked at the supply room for U.S. foot powder but found out that they can no longer get it. The other evening before the Bn. parade we all had our

pictures taken. I have three small ones and want a large one but don't know if they'll have any more. I'm going to send them home to you sometime.

I'm certainly happy to get the church anniversary news. Wish I could have been in it.

What is this I hear about Shirley and Phyllis not being able to make the bus? I got a letter from ~~her~~ yesterday. She told me all about it.

I know several things which might be of interest to you. At any rate it should. I can't have a chance now at a band or chaplain's ass't. or anything like that (cooks, truck driver, etc.) These in the infantry go only for Form 2's. A 'Form 2' is a person who isn't physically fit to complete their basic. They are given a six or ten-weeks cycle and then that kind of a job. I'll know in two and one-half weeks whether I'm one or not, but know I'll still be I-F. T.S.

The other thing is something they told us when we came here but I didn't believe it. From our short war dispatches here the past month I'm convinced that they are right. We will all be going overseas. Either the Army's occupation or to the South Pacific. Lt. Black said today that in our 13th week we would all be on a shipping order, and it would doubtlessly be to the Pacific area. The War Dept still looks for a long war with Japan. In 10½ weeks I'll be on a shipping order unless I get a Form 2. You know as much as I do. ~~I don't~~ ^{I don't} know when my cycle is over (17 wks from Sept. 18th) I have a 10 day leave en route to a P.O.E. (Port of Embarkation). Just about ready to fall out to find out about shots. Love Jim.