

5TH TRAINING REGIMENT

Army Specialized Training Program

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

Tuesday Evening.

Dear Folks,

I have about 15 minutes before supper so I'll start my letter now and have part of it finished before I have to quit. The main thing on my mind right now is that I am so tired it isn't funny. We took a 22 mile march today and just barely got back. This is one of the feats that must be accomplished in the 13th week. On Thursday we are supposed to make a forced march of 4 miles in about 40 minutes. On a forced march you run and the walk to rest yourself.

We started on our march early this morning and even though 22 miles doesn't sound like much it sure is. Besides just covering the ground, of course, we must carry about 40 lbs of pack and 9 pounds of rifle. Even the steel helmets which we wear weigh 4 or 5 pounds. The worst,

Part of the march is climbing the hills. There are hills around here that compare to those of Brown County and we sure spend a lot of time going up.

My feet have taken a lot of babying the last couple of weeks but so far they have been ready to go when the time arrives. I soaked them last night and put on clean socks and powdered them good this morning. They sure feel like a soaking again tonight, too. We can't send laundry any more so I think they will get plenty of water on them while I am washing clothes under the shower.

Yesterday we had 6 hours of tests on the things we have learned during basic. Three of the hours were spent in practical tests such as operation of different weapons and the other three hours were written tests.

(after chew) I am afraid this is going to be a pretty hard week so I'll be glad when

5TH TRAINING REGIMENT

Army Specialized Training Program

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

It's over. But I sure wish I knew what is next. There are some pretty strong rumors that we will be leaving out of here next week and that we will likely be sent to Louisiana to an infantry outfit. This sounds anything but interesting to me.

I wonder if you got moved Saturday. I don't quite understand how you are going to get along. Are you staying with Grandma Carver's.

I got Dad's letter yesterday. I was sure glad to get it. I won't make any promises but I'll try to get a letter written that can be read to the class. I would sort of like to know what I should write about. I don't want to paint too dark a story but I don't feel like bragging on the army maybe if you

give me some ideas, I won't have
to paint either kind.

I would like to get home as well
as you would like for me to but I
don't think there is any chance. Keep
your chin and hopes up.

Love

Donald.