

Sunday Evening

Dear Folks,

I am getting low on paper but have several envelopes left so I will use a mixture. It has been a rainy day and I have been lucky enough not to have any extra duty so you can guess how I have been spending the day. I went to church this morning and have spent the day sleeping reading and eating popcorn. I got your package yesterday evening, I believe. The popcorn tastes like Sunday afternoons at home but of course it is not quite as crisp and tasty as it is when fresh. In the future when you send packages could you wrap them a little more securely. One corner of each of the last two boxes have been bursted and leaking. They take an awful beating so the paste-board boxes are mashed and the paper bursts. Either put them in more secure boxes, or what would be easier and maybe better, wrap them in good tough paper.

It has been raining all day down here. This is the second time it has rained since we have been here and we certainly needed one. You can

2. imagine how dry and dusty roads and fields of plain sand can be. They say it rains almost continually down here in the winter and scarcely ever snows, so by the way it looks today winter may be starting.

Daddy asked several questions, which I am very glad for you to do, so I will try to answer them. "I will be very glad for you to subscribe for the Reader's Digest for me." As for my hut mates: some of them are nice and some not so nice. There is a lot of rough language thrown around and a few of them like to drink, but these kinds of things do not appeal to me and I hate them more than ever. Several of them come from different parts of New York, two from Kansas, one from Chicago, and where all else I don't know. There are fellows from all corners of the country in our company. Since our company is made up mostly of the last of the alphabet of the other 3 companies it seems that half of the fellows have those long foreign names, many of them ending in "i". All in all I think they are pretty normal

3 fellows except one which is 6'5" tall.

As to how I like the 16th Co., I have got used to it and I imagine that after all I like it as well as I would have liked the 13th. It is impossible to have any real close buddies but I have found a couple I like and can trust. In the 13th Co there was one that went to church with me and I liked and really hated to leave him. But since I have been in the 16th I have got acquainted with a boy from Kansas that has come to be my chum. He goes to church with me (he is a Methodist himself), does not have any real bad habits is a good worker and works with me whenever possible. However I more often have to work with another fellow who is next to me in the squad. I like him well enough and can get along with him alright. My best pal's name is Taylor.

You wanted a list of things I need and I will start on this tonight but may not finish it in time to enclose it in this letter.

Jim asked me how we eat in the field and this brings me very nicely to my next point.

4 Usually when we eat out a truck bring a meal that was cooked in the kitchen and we have as good or better meals than when we eat in the mess hall. But yesterday we ate Type C combat rations. Of course the object of this was to give us experience. Here is what these meals consisted of. They were put up in 2 little tin cans a little bigger around than no. 2 cans but not quite so tall. They must hold about the same amount as a no. 2 can. One can was clear full of either vegetable stew, beans and meat or some similar kind of main dish. You know that a no 2 can of eats is almost a meal in itself. The other can contained 5 biscuits to use for bread. They were as big around as the can and about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick. They were about like thick graham crackers in looks and taste. Besides this the can held 3 pieces of hard candy, three lumps of sugar and a powder that dissolves in water that makes either coffee, cocoa or lemon aid. Mine was for coffee so I only made a very small amount. You have to furnish the water from your canteen so you might as well drink water anyway except that it is flavored. You are satisfied after eating one of these meals and our whole platoon

5 of about 50 men was fed from 2 little boxes about the size of no 2 cartons.

Yesterday we spent about 3 hours marching and the rest of the time we spent practicing map reading in the field that we have been learning.

They gave us week-end passes this week to go to Columbus. Columbus has a poor reputation and is always filled with thousands of soldiers so I stayed here.

I don't know what all we will do next week but I do know that we start working on machine guns and mortars.

I wrote Mrs. Norris about 2 weeks ago and this week I got a package from her. She sent me cup cakes and pop corn balls. In my letter to her I didn't know for sure whether Duane was in this camp or not so I imagine it sounded crazy when I mentioned him. By the way I lost his address and would like for you to send it to me again.

I suppose you saw the write up in the paper about me. Several of the other boys got similar clippings so I suppose they must have sent the information from here. One of the forms that we filled

6 out asked for our hometown newspapers. It said that a lot of the instructors have had actual battle experience but I only know of one corporal and one sergeant that have. The truth of the matter is that we have good non-commissioned officers but not for this reason. All but very few of them attended officers candidate school but failed to get their commissions.

My eye is a little blue today but I am not having any trouble with it.

It seems that I am not going to get to do much Christmas shopping so I wish Richard would start thinking about this. I am going to send home some money before long.

Instead of getting used to being away from home it seems that I am getting more home-sick as time goes along.

Love,

Donald.

I keep my eyes open for stamps on letters and packages that the other fellows and I get and I think that I am making more progress on my collection than I did at home.