

Sunday

Dear Grandpa and all the rest,

I never have written Grandpa a letter and I realize that he gets benefit from all my letters but this will be his letter. I must begin as usual by making apologies for not writing but I was so busy the last part of last week that a letter to Grandpa Carver which I started on Wednesday didn't get finished until this morning. We got off early yesterday afternoon and I might have written then but I went to the barber shop and had to wait 2 hours to get my hair cut so my afternoon was then shot. I don't know whether you have ever wondered whether we have to get short haircuts like the navy boys do. Well a lot of the fellows do get them because they are a lot less trouble but they aren't required and I haven't got one. My hair is cut about as usual except the hair in front has been shortened so that it won't fall into my eyes. We have to pay for our own haircuts but they only cost us 40¢, the same as

at Dick's.

Here is how I have spent my evening instead of writing for the past few days. On Wednesday we were out until 11:00 on a night problem on the use of the compass. Thursday night we had to scrub out the barracks for inspection and on Friday night we went to a lecture. At this program a Catholic priest, a Jewish Rabbi and a Protestant minister spoke to us. The purpose was, of course, to encourage religion and a cooperation between those of different religions. A lot of the fellows didn't want to go but I heard several of them actually bragging on it after it was over.

I went to chapel again this morning then came back and got your package at mail call. I might have got it last night if I had of been here instead of the barber shop. You sent the exact kind of towel that I wanted but was afraid I hadn't explained well enough.

This week we have been taking a good bit of mechanical training on the trench mortar and the light machine gun. We will fire these on the range sometime

before our basic is over. The mortar is interesting to me to work with but I may not be very good at it. You have to be pretty good at judging distances to be accurate.

We were also issued the rifles that we will shoot. ~~during the past week.~~ We have been carrying World War I rifles up till now to learn how to drill with rifles. The rifles we have now are like the ones used in combat but of course they aren't new ones. They are known as the 30 caliber M1. I don't know whether you have heard of them or not.

Well yesterday made 2 months for me in this army, in 2 more months (6 weeks) I should be through my basic training. There has already begun to be a lot of speculation and anticipation about where we will go to school. That is a good ways off and I have got a lot of things to do before then. I just hope I can get through this basic alright. I haven't done anything outstanding yet but as far as I know I am doing satisfactory.

You asked if our barracks are heated. Well

there are stoves in them and heat doesn't feel so bad when the temperature gets down about freezing in the mornings but we have to keep them so clean that we more often go without fire. Anyway we want to get used to the cold to prepare us for the time when we will be out sleeping in our pup tents. We are supposed to spend 2 weeks out on the range living in ^(or?) 6 man tents and 2 weeks on bivouac (on practice maneuvers) living in our pup tents.

I believe I told you about wanting you to put my plastic chain up so I can find it sometime. Well I am sending it now.

I want to read my Sunday School paper and Reader's Digest and am running low on news anyway.

Love
Donald

I would like for Rickard to give Mr. Rayment my correct address. They are getting it all wrong. (Training Regt. instead of Inf. Regt.)

Those Rice Krispie things are really good. My appetite about runs away with me. I am spending too much on candy and am going to have to slow up considerably.

NAME &
RANK

Out. Donald Tappan 25293186

ORGANIZATION

16th Co. 6th Infantry Regt

BRANCH OF SERVICE

ASTP



FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

*Samuel Tappan
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