

Sat. Eve.

Dear Folks,

Well I hope that today you are getting your mowing done. Maybe by this time the worst of it is over with. at least I hope so.

We finished up our bivouac at about 7:00 this morning. We finished up a week of night problems with an all night march coming home. We left the bivouac area at 10:30 last night and then instead of marching straight home, we marched all over the country (a good bit of the time not on roads)

for approximately 8 hours. we had had 8 hour night problems last week but never before had they been devoted entirely to covering territory. We were so tired when we got here that it was sure not funny. we ate breakfast and most of us went to bed before we had even had a bath. you can't imagine how good it felt to sleep in a bed after two weeks of lying on the ground.

Since I wrote you last we had a couple 4 hour night problems and a couple that lasted 8 hours. For two nights the 11th & 19th companies

attacked the 9th & 10th companies and then for the next 2 nights the 11th and 12th were enemies while the 9th and 10th attacked.

I got your box this morning that contained the stationery, handkerchiefs, Reader's Digest, etc. That sure is a nice box of stationery and I am thankful for everything in the box. I guess you must have sensed my wishes for a Reader's Digest even before you got my letter asking for one. It has already helped me a lot in

catching up on my re-
laxation today. Of course
I slept most of the
morning and then this
afternoon I made a break
for the barber shop (which
we all must have done
by Monday). After that
I gathered up my Readers
Digest & paper and came
off into the woods behind
our company area. Some
of the fellows went into
town to get away from
it all. But I can
think of better ways to
relax than getting drunk.

I have spent most of
the afternoon sleeping
but I got in an article
or two before I dozed
off.

Richard asked if I found the woods down here about like those at home. The woods all winter down here have reminded me of fall. Everything is brown except the pine trees which make up a good percent of the trees. Of course then because of this instead of the ground being entirely covered by leaves part of it is spread with pine needles.

In our hivanac area there was one green tree besides the pines. It is the magnolia. I would like for you to look

in a tree back and find out what time of year it leaves out and if the leaves stay on all winter. I brought back a sample of their leaves which I'll send you one of these times.

You can begin to see signs of spring already. Some of the underbrush is beginning to leave out and there are a few spring flowers. I have seen a few violets and something that reminds me of bloodroot. We have also run into a patch or two of wild plums which were in bloom.

Well I have a lot of clothes I want to

get washed tonight so I'll
stop and get busy at
that.

Love

Donald.

I am including the
magnolia leaves. They are
so different from anything
at home that maybe they
will interest you.