



SHEPPARD FIELD
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

3-5-43

Dear Folks,

As I have said in every communication issued so far, I am busy. So in order to catch up on my letter writing I have devised a scheme. The scheme is to work like this. I am sending this original, general letter to 512 W. Mulhey. There someone, ~~Mama~~ Mama, Papa, Ruth, Weasie, or Eddie, will make three carbon copies on the type written for Brother and Gertrude, Ivin, and Amy. This copy is to be made word for word, with the only change being in the correction of my spelling. Whoever the unlucky person is at home that gets to ~~do~~ make the ~~copy~~ copies, I should like to assure him that such a request will not be made of him again. Thanking you for your trouble I will begin.

To start off, I will give you a résumé of a model day in the army, that is, while receiving the basic training. Here there is no lunge, a great disappointment, but some jerk comes in at 4:45 with a whistle and turns the lights on. We have until 5:15 to get up, get dressed, leggins included, get through in the latrine letrine, bath room to you, and fall outside for roll call. We then have until 6:18, breakfast call to make up our beds, wrinkleless

and sweep the barracks, dustless. Because I didn't use any emphatic words in the last sentence, don't think I didn't mean every word of it. After we get back from breakfast, we have until 7:00 to finish tidying up and ~~make~~ maybe five minutes to loaf on the floor, not on the beds. Then from 7:00 to 11:00 we spend our time drilling, listening to lectures, and watching demonstrations and picture shows. Then we come back to our barracks and loaf again from 11:15 to 11:44, then we march to noon mess. ~~When we~~ when we get back we are allowed to loaf again to 1:00. Don't be misled by all of these loafs, they are always only for a few minutes, and there is always something to do. From 1:00 to ~~from~~ 3:30, we spend on the pea patch, taking calentrics, playing difficult body conditioning, and body contact games, running the obstacle course, etc. I forgot to mention that this afternoon schedule is followed on alternating days. Every other day we go on a 8, 10, 12, or 14 mile road hike, in which we spend about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the time running, I don't mean trotting, I mean running. But no matter what we do, we are back on the drill field by 4:00. We drill until 5:00, stand informal retreat and then march home. The day is officially over, but not in reality. We march to chow again at 5:30, and then march back to barracks. We can then go to the P. L., picture show, day room, luncheon show, or service club. Sounds good doesn't it? Here is the catch. Two days out of the week we are confined automatically to H. I. the barracks. That means to clean them immaculately. Scrub, mop, sweep, clean the windows, rafters etc.

The other five nights we have to ourselves unless we are on some special list to do something extra. And it is very easy to get on one of these lists. I have been on every one but two, one of those was when the C. I. made up my bed for me. You get on it for anything you do, shoes not straight, a wrinkle on your bed, clothes not hung right, or for just breathing sometimes. Of course we have to take time out for shots, physicals, mentale, vaccinations etc, every once in a while. Sundays we have all to ourselves unless they confined confine us to our barracks, they are always doing this for no good reason at all. ^{Lights out at 9:30 except in letdown.} Now you have an idea of a day in the army.

3-6-43 11:00 A.M.

The lights went out on me last night so I'll try to finish today.

In Amy's last letter she seemed perplexed about all of the numbers and letters I'll try to tell some of them and what they mean. The most used of all is G. I. G. I. originally meant government issue but now everything is G. I. Our haircuts are G. I., our barracks and shoes have to be G. I.'s, sometimes we make up our ~~bag~~ beds G. I. style etc. The P. X. is post exchange, the place where we can ~~buy~~ buy everything at a reduced price. The C. I. is the soldier that is in charge of quarters. D. I. is drill instructor. A. A. F. is army air force, A. S. N. is army serial number. Mine is 18,242,012. Pvt. is private, that is what I am, but

I soon hope to be an A/C, aviation cadet. I. S. I. is technical school squadron. I. S. I. is training group. That is all that I can think of now but there are many more.

Brotter, you wanted the low down on army life, I think I told you enough of that in the first part of this letter. Sir, I'll tolerate the damn Yankee, but I won't learn how to spell.

Ruth, I see the Hathaway boy every day, he is a good boy and so in Griffitha, I bunk next to him. Carl told me to tell you hello. Tell my children at S. I. hello.

Army, that box of Candy sure was good and the next of you can read this. It just cost her 11¢ to send it. And Carl Hathaway's mother sent him a box of home made candy for 9¢. I bet a cake could be sent for about the same thing, Mama.

Mama, keep Eddie smelling good, tell Maile she's still pretty, and don't bang your shin too much.

Papa, you'll find my address at the end of this letter. Incidentally it's a new one.

We ~~are~~ ^{will} need our gas masks, and mess kits so, as soon as we get ~~out~~ ^{out} three day hike to the rifle range, and our tour through the gas chamber and a bit more basic training we will probably be leaving here. We will then go to college for 5 months schooling, then we will become cadets and really start to work them.

Everyone is ~~is~~ ^{is} dying to get ~~of~~ ^{out} of here.

A move has been strated to pass a bill through congress
to have this particular part of Texas disowned. We want to
give back to the Indians or somebody. I don't blame the
Samyankles for not liking Texas if this all that they have
seen of it.

About this coming home deal. If anyone ever mention
going home they get laughed at so it is no telling when I'll
get home.

I am going to try to phone home tomorrow if I can't
get a line through you will know I tried when you get
this.

My new address is:

Priv. Joseph W. Hays
A.M. 18,242,012
I. J. G. 306
Barracks 695
A. A. J. B. F. C (no. 3)
Sheppard Field, Texas

The I. J. G. is Tech. Training Group
A. A. J. B. F. C. is Army Air Force Basic Training Center

Time to go to chow so I'll quit

Love,

Jal.