



UNITED STATES ARMY

Sept 2 1943

Dear Sweetheart:-

Well it seems a long time but I have arrived where I am to be at last. It is a long way from home, Camp Carson Colorado just outside of Colorado Springs about 5 or 10 miles. Believe it or not I am in the Engineers. Why? I don't know and I can't say that I like the idea a whole lot at the present. Maybe after I am here a while it will be different. The camp here is very nice. Mountains all around and you can see Pikes Peak from here, it is only a few miles away. I am in Co A-17th Sontar Battalion whatever that is.

Just to give you an idea of where we travelled here goes. We left Fort Benj Harrison at 400 PM Aug 31st and arrived at the various towns as follows,

Indianapolis Ind - 4:35 PM. Lay over in Indianapolis ate supper and left about 7:20 PM.

Terre Haute Ind - 8:30 PM

Paris Ill - 9:10 PM

Sept 1 - St Louis Mo - 1:00 AM

Union Mo - 3:00 AM

Eldon Mo - 6:35 AM

Ionia Mo - 930 AM
 Kansas City Mo - 1200 noon - the lay over.
 St Joseph Mo - 2 25 PM
 Crossed Nebraska line - 400 PM
 Falls City net - 420 PM
 Wymore net - 600 PM
 Adell net - 635 PM
 Sept 2 Denver Colo - 950 AM
 Camp Carson - 11:30 AM

We travelled in pullmans and slept and ate right on the train. Of course there wasn't anyone on the whole train but soldiers and we didn't know where we were going or I would have told you Tuesday when I called.

Confidentially between you and I and not to be told to anyone else I was a little bit homesick for you and the gang to me but I will be OK tomorrow. We are all tired and sort of nervous, everything so new and different again and of course some of us thought that we were going into the Engineers.

Have a couple buddies from Mansfield and so far we have been together all the time Paul Parbetta and Edward Grantham. Both are from Mafd. Parbetta a boxer and Grantham was Mgr of Household Finance Co. We bunked together on the train and have all been assigned



UNITED STATES ARMY

To Co. A here at Camp Carson. Of course there may be changes made later but so far we have been lucky to be able to stay together. I forgot to tell you this Camp is 6300 ft above sea level. Hot days & cold nights.

Did I send that copy of the Marriage license home with the other papers? If I did put it in a letter & return it to me. Also the bag I kept, we are not allowed to have them here so will have to return it now.

I don't know anything else to tell you now except that I love you and be sure to write me the news now that you can write me. Be sure to address the letter as I have it on the envelop. Tell the folks and everyone else hello for me and for you

Love
Don



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

6:30 P.M.

Sept 9 1943

Dear Sweetheart :-

Goody, Goody, I got a letter today and it sure made me feel good to hear from you. You didn't have a lot to say but it was good anyway. How did you make out at the R.S.S.S.

Can you read the letters I have been writing? The reason I ask is because the day room is only about the size of our living + dining rooms and that has to take care of 208 men so you see there isn't much room so I have been writing my letters in bed. By the way I think the ^{note} letter I wrote you last night was dated the 9th and it should have been the 8th.

We had another fairly tough day today. Paleontologists, more than 1-hour drill then class for 1 hour. After class another hour of drilling then gas mask course for 1 hour then class then drill then

retreat and slow and here I am back to
now again. We are on our feet, practically
6 or 7 hrs a day and they do get tired.

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

According to the news reports
and papers I guess I stay folded up in
a hurry and they are really giving it
to the Germans. Maybe this damn
war will be over before we think.
I hope so anyway. I do enjoy this
training I am getting but if the war
would end tomorrow, I wouldn't feel
bad.

Here is a joke you can tell
the Dillons. What did the butcher say
to the young girl who came into the shop
with a tite fitting red sweater on? He said
see all that meat and only 2 red points.

Had fried eggplant with our
meal the other day and I forgot to
tell you. I tasted pretty good. There
is only one real good thing I miss here
and that is good coffee. There is all
right but it is not like you make. Of
course there is a lot of things I would
like but I am not complaining.

See why sweetheart I sit down to
write you a letter and I have so much
to say but when I start writing I just



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

get lost & forgetful anyway I just can't
seem to write a whole lot. Thinking
if you still gets me in a dither I guess.

Well I have some equipment to
make so I had better do it before I
forget and someone gets long fingered. Will
close now with all my love from
your

Igeedinks

~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

645 PM

Sept 13th

Dear Sweetheart:—

Well we entered our 2nd week of Basic Training today and it got a little tougher. We were out crawling on our hands & knees and on our bellies and hitting the ground from a run etc. My poor knees are sort of sore this evening. I got a charlie horse in my left leg Friday and every day I start running it comes back but it isn't too bad.

You ask me in the letter I received today if there were any witty fellows in the outfit. You should know that whenever a group gets together that some one is witty. We have a couple dandies in the bunch and if you want a laugh you just get around them a little & you're bound to laugh.

It is too bad about Ethel's



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

mother but I guess they were expecting it so that should soften the blow somewhat. Did you send flowers or what?

As for the Manifold Paper Paul Parbetta has it sent to him & he & I agree to pay half of it each month so you see we get all the news from the home front.

As for my money I still have plenty. I haven't spent a whole lot and haven't done any gambling since I entered the Army until last nite. I sat down in a friendly Poker game last nite & won about \$4.00 so that more than paid for my Sat nite in town and the picture show & beers I had last nite. I haven't had the desire to gamble a whole lot so I don't think I have to worry about that.



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

We got out of quarantine last Sat
to go to town & in the post so I guess
we are all OK.

I was going to write to Dad tonight
but only have one envelope so I wrote
to you. Will of me visit it? I am
going up to the PX in a little bit
and get some paper & envelopes so
will write Dad tomorrow, etc.

Some of the boys are outside now
working windows. They got "gigged"
today on inspection so they got extra
duty. I have been OK so far. No bad
marks & only one shot of extra duty.
Some of us fellows came in the
barracks Sat. when we should have
been outside so they made us
double time around the drill field two
times. I was still "puffin'" about 15 minutes
later. Tomorrow I go on KP duty



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

but that isn't extra duty as we all have to take a crack at that. I get a break on it though as I go to the officers mess and from what I hear that isn't bad at all. Good food & everything for one day. I'll eat the same as they do tomorrow.

well sweetheart I guess I'll go to the PX & mail that so will close for now. with all my love.

Your Sweetheart
Don

Keep the letters coming.

PS got a letter from Gene & Kenny today.
Don



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

5:15 PM

Sept 17 1943

Dear Sweetheart: -

Another day and I have earned another \$1.67. What I mean by that is that is the daily pay of a buck private in the Army.

I am feeling fine and am getting along OK. This is Friday night and of course that means scrub the barracks so I am writing this early so as to get it written. To top it all our platoon has to assemble at 6:30 and go out & set up our tents and give a full field park display so you see we won't have a lot of time to do our cleaning.

Today we had our first drilling with the M1 Garand rifle but only got about 1 hr of it. This afternoon we were all out in the field using the tools



★ CAMP CARSON, COLORADO ★

or rather some of the tools of the Engineers. It is interesting but as I have told you once you get an explanation of it and it has to stick or else. So far I have been fortunate. Of course we will get more experience when we go out for 10 days up in the mountains building bridges roads etc. I have heard that we go out next month so will tell you about that when it comes.

Well aunt will close now and get my laundry ready to go out too before we are called out at 6:30.

all my love

Don
XXX

PS Got a letter from Almer today and it was very nice.

Don



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

9:00 AM

Sept 19, 1943

Dear Sweetheart! -

I know you are going to feel bad 'cause I didn't write yesterday and I really have no excuse. We got through a little early in the afternoon so Paul + I got passes + went to town early + got a meal. After that we went to the show + saw Stormy Weather and then over to the USO + WRC for a while. The Marine band from Alameda Calif. was at the WRC and they were really good but they played some pieces that sort of make you homesick.

We had a show down drill in the manual of arms yesterday PM and there was about 50 of us to start with. At the end there was only two left and they stopped it. The two left was a fellow named Varichak and another named Gale. Pretty good eh wot?

Boy just into the wind, started to



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

blow and it felt as though the barrels were going to blow away and of course it got cold, my fingers now are so cold I can hardly write. We go into our old or wadded uniforms tomorrow so I guess will keep warm all night.

I believe I took a little cold last nite. maybe I am getting it to be in sympathy with your cold but I don't think we should get those sympathetic colds as that could go on forever.

Next week we start rifle marksmanship and Wed nite we go out on an overnight camp. According to the schedule we really have another tough week ahead of us.

Did I ever tell you my complete address? Anyway if I didn't hear goes.

Pvt DGBale - 1st squad, 4th platoon, Co A, 171st Engineers
Combat Battalion, 1110th group, 11th Corps, 2nd Army.



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

Quite long isn't it? Of course you only use the part that goes in the left corner of my letters.

Well sweetheart I guess that is all I can think of now. So will close with all my love.

Your sweetheart
Don
x x x

P.S.:-

Again I am sorry that I missed writing you yesterday. Don

If I take time out to take a crap
They say I'm helping out a jap
If I stop to take a drink
They say I'm letting down a chink
If I slow down because I'm ailin
They say its less for old Joe Stalin
If I stay home because I'm sick
They say I help what Hitler picks
If I don't pay my income taxes
They say I help the whole damn axis
So I'll work like hell & never stop
I'll stay right here until I drop
I'll piss my pants
I'll shit in my shoes
I'll help save the world
for the God Dam Jews



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

9:50 P.M.

or 2:50

Army Time

Sept 24 1943

Dear Sweetheart:—

As you can see we work on the 24 hour clock also. I am OK and am glad your cold is getting along OK. mine is clearing up and I hope it goes away entirely.

A group of six just got back from the PK and of course some beer. That is all we have to do in the evenings. This was Friday and of course clean up with in the barracks but we had cleaned them real good last night we got through in a hurry but we were fooled. We thought we would have a lot of time for ourselves and then they issued our rifles to the 1st squad of each platoon. I happen to be squad leader of the 1st squad of 4th platoon so after we got the rifles we had to take



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

15 fellows around it talking to the dice.
Put about 30 more fellows in the
room, some talking and some writing
you can imagine the confusion

I am sorry that you don't
like your job so well right now but
I know as you get more acquainted with
the work & the employees, you will
enjoy it. I hope you are able to
work it down to 5 1/2 days instead of
6 days as I know you can use the
extra 1/2 day.

Well sweet I can think of you as
being in bed and asleep by now as it
is 10 o'clock (2200) here and it is 12 o'clock
(2400) in Mansfield. I wish I were there
with you and know you wish the same
thing.

Were you able to read the letter
of yesterday? I saw it was lousy cause
between the bees and my sore fingers



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

I could hardly write. (I am sorry.)

we had another shot today.

Our second Tetanus shot and boy
did it take affect right away. The
Medic shot us in the right arm and
before you had taken 6 steps away
you could feel it take affect. On me
though it hasn't bothered me except
for about 5 minutes since the shot
so I am OK for that.

well sweet I am going to close
for now and will try to write you
another long letter tomorrow.
with all my love I am

your forever
Don

PS:- Some more screwy writing eh
rust? Don



★ **CAMP CARSON, COLORADO** ★

1750 o'clock
Sept 30 1943

Dear Sweetheart: ~

Well sweet the big day was today and everyone is flush with money. I drew \$10.00. That is a lot isn't it? I didn't expect a whole lot this pay because of the deductions set to be taken the first pay. Here is how it figures out.

5 days pay for August	8.35
Sept Pay	<u>50.00</u>
Total	58.35

Deductions	Aug.	allotment	22.00
		Insurance	15.00
	Sept	allotment	22.00
		Insurance	7.80
		Laundry	<u>1.50</u>
		Total	68.00

So you see I owe the Army \$9.65. but as I told you in yesterday's letter they won't take all your pay, so I received \$10.00 then next month they will take some more and keep it up till they have collected all that is due. after that I will draw full pay. I will get



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

along OK so don't worry. If I should
have to have a couple bucks I will let
you know and hope that if I do I
won't be asking too much!

I forgot to tell you before that
we have been having some good food.
We have had eggplant about 5 times and
a lot of lamb (mostly stew) so you see I
have been getting some foods that I like.
Our cooks are not so hot though and we
get quite a bit of "glop" as Jim would say.

There was snow on Pike's Peak
this morning so I believe winter must
be on its way. We have had very nice
weather though and can't complain at all.
~~The~~ It has snowed on the Peak before
but not enough to stay and be noticeable.
I am glad you have been having nice
weather in Mansfield and hope you
continue to have it that way.

we have been dry firing our rifles
practically all day every day this week and



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

have all day tomorrow and part of Saturday to go on it yet. I told you that we go on the range all next week so the dry firing will be good for us. We are supposed to go from standing position to prone & fire 1 shot then load the rifle and fire 5 more shots and get it all done in 50 seconds. That is what is called sustained fire. Each shot must be aimed and your breathing has to be right etc or you have to double time down to the target and back. The target is set up 200 yds away. So far I have only double timed once and that was because I didn't hear what was said. My firing, I have it down to taking my position and getting off my shot in about 46 or 47 seconds. The lieutenant said the other day that my timing was very good. We have to fire the same way as above from prone, sitting & kneeling then we get slow fire from prone, sitting, kneeling & standing. I hope I get my expert rating that I am trying for.

Mail call just called & got your letter of the 27th. In regards to the car, what it needs is the two water pumps that I have all ready



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

to put on the case. But knows where they are and said he would put them on for me.

question #2 - A bivouac is an encampment. So far we have gone out only overnight but have a 10 day one coming up sometime soon.

question #3 - As far as keeping busy, you don't have a lot of spare time to get lonesome or get the blues. The Army can always think of something for you to do.

Well sweetheart I guess I'll close for now. I think I did pretty well tonight don't you? So with all my love I am

Your loving husband,

Don

K X X



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1230 o'clock
Oct 6 1943

Dear Sweetheart :-

Here I am again writing to you. and I will try to write a better letter today. We were all so tired after coming off the range that we didn't do much except eat, cleanup, & go to bed. I fired in group #1 and we will be at camp today & tomorrow then back out on the range Fri & Sat to run the target. I still am disgusted with myself for blowing up & missing the Expert mark by 7 points but there isn't anything I can do about it now.

I have had a job this AM & have to continue on it this PM. I am teaching a fellow, who has been in the hospital, rifle marksmanship. It isn't a bad job but maybe while I am teaching him I may miss something that I might need and I don't like that.

about the automobile, I don't believe it advisable to put the car up for the



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

winter as they deteriorate so fast when they are idle.

We lost our lieutenant the other day. He was called up for overseas duty so I suppose there will be some changing around of officers next week when we have the general shuffle of manpower. I wish I knew what was going to happen but I don't so there isn't anything I can do about it until things happen. Some of the boys have heard rumors but I won't believe them until they happen.

You ~~th~~ sure must be keeping yourself busy with all the housework and your job & doing the canning you have been doing. Don't overdo it so much that when I come home on furlough (around Christmas I hope) you will be all tired out. I want to tell you out myself but in a different way.

Well sweet it is getting close to 1300 o'clock so will close for now & finish



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

this letter tonight. Pleasant dreams until
this evening.

1.73 o'clock

I will try to finish this now before
the gang gets back from the range.

It is almost show time & then I
suppose I'll go to the PX & have a couple
beers & then to bed.

My pupil seemed to take hold
pretty well today & I hope he gets a
good score tomorrow. If he does the
officers will say I am a good instructor,
if not I will be a poor instructor.

The bunch just got back & it
is awfully noisy.

Say sweet I lost my cigarette
liter so will you send out my eagle
liter. I hoped I don't lose it too. With
all the rolling around you do it is a
wonder you don't lose your pants.

Well sweet I don't know any
more to tell you so will close for now



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1900 o'clock
Oct 8 1943

Dear Sweetheart;

Here I am again. Got the package with the towels, cheese & Bob Hazel & Moussey sent me a carton of comels too. Thanks a load for everything.

About the insurance I believe you had better see Mickey but I imagine that is a 3 year premium. We have always paid it yearly and that is a little more expensive.

Tell Moussey that owing to our being so busy I haven't ~~been~~ ^{been able} to answer his letter but will try to answer it Sunday. And I will try to drop a line to the folks ~~there~~ too.

I didn't hurt myself bad playing ball. I just pulled my ankle. It was sore a couple days but it is OK now.



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

I worked in the rifle pits today pulling targets and was supposed to work there tomorrow but the top kids told me tonite that I go on ^a coach ~~for~~ ^{on} the range tomorrow. The fellow that I coached all day Wednesday was on the range yesterday and fired 166 out of a possible 210. I think that is pretty good for only 1 day practice and that is probably why I am going to coach on the line tomorrow.

Well sweatheart this ~~of~~ is Friday nite + clean up nite so will have to get at it so with all my love I am

Your stubby
Don

x x x
x x
x



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1835 Colorado
Oct 11 1943

Dear Sweet heart :-

Here it is mail time again and of course I am writing to you as usual. I don't know how long I am going to be able to keep up my correspondence with other people but of course I'll not forget writing to you ever.

I got a letter & package of writing paper & addressed envelopes from Marge Rhoads tonight and you tell her for me thanks a million and I will write her when I get time & thank her myself.

We were out on anti aircraft rifle rifle range all day and the wind was blowing to beat the band all the time. When the wind blows hard we sure have a lot of dust. We eat it breath it and sleep in it.

The top sergeant told me this evening I got my PFC stripes so am beginning to work my way up. We have to go up step by step so I don't know how



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

Long before I can get a couple more. I hope it won't be long cause I can use the money as well as the advancement.

I got a letter from Elmer yesterday and some one had the wires crossed as Ethel's mother didn't die. She has been in the Hospital again but is out & home again now.

I got a letter from Dad today & Cloyd has been moved to a new Jap Prison camp. He will probably send you his new address.

about the Travelers insurance I am sure there has been a slip up at Cleveland somewhere and am sure Nicky will have it straightened out for you.

I haven't heard from Hughes for a long time and am wondering what is the matter. You tell them thanks for the smoked cheese but if they don't soon write I am going to curse them



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

off my list. I wish I could be there
to help celebrate Ruth's Birthday
but inasmuch as I can't you
wish her a happy birthday from
me to her & have a drink on me.

Well sweet I think I have done
pretty well tonite. I have all your
questions answered and have told
you all I know about myself so will
close for now loving you more
than ever.

Your Stubby
Dons
xxx

P.S.:- I don't know whether you can
read this or not as I am in a high
speed writing mood tonite!

Love
Dons
xxx



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1810 o'clock
10/19/43

Dear Sweetheart :-

Just a note tonight as there is nothing to say except we were out on the range today all day. I coaxed 3 men this morning and pulled in 1 sharpshooter & 2 marksmen. This afternoon I coaxed 1 man and he came through a sharpshooter.

Outside of that, I didn't do a thing today so I don't have any thing to tell. I got the shoe stamp OK & will probably get the shoes out of the 15⁰⁰ the gang gave me at the Turtle Soup dinner.

Did Bill Mc. find his pocketbook?
How is everyone?

Well sweet will close now & write a real letter tomorrow.

Don
X X X



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1845 O'clock

Oct 17 1943

Dear Southwest :-

Here I am writing again. I just got through moving again. We were definitely split up into permanent platoons today & I was moved into the second platoon now. I still retain my position as squad leader so I'll get along OK. I talked to the Top Kick last night after I wrote to you and he told me my Corporal recommendation is already in, so today I am a PFC and according to the top kids I will be a corporal by Saturday so I guess I am advancing all right. In the talk with the top kick he told me that the old man had something in mind for me and just to sit back and wait for developments.

We worked out on 30 caliber machine guns all day and they are a nasty weapon but very simple. I had one



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

apart & back together today and learned the names of nearly all the parts so I think I am pretty smart.

Outside of the machine guns & moving we didn't do anything exciting today so I don't have any more to tell you. I didn't get a letter from you today but I guess that's the mail service again. I got a package from Kenny Dornier & Billy Bisceman today & it was two cartons of Camels and I think that is swell of them. I will thank them both in a note later but if you see them thank them for me too.

Well sweet that is all for tonight so good by, with all my love.

Don
XXX

1045 o'clocks
Oct 24 1943

Dear Sweetheart:—

Here I am again bothering you. How are you today? I am fine & hope you are too. Evans & I went to town last nite and had a nice time. We stopped & had a few drinks & then went to the WPC to the dance. After I got back to camp I went over to the mess hall & sit around & talked till 2 am & then to bed. What did you do last nite? I hope you thought of me.

Well sweet we build a few more bridges this week. Then next week we go up to the mountains for our 10 day bivouac. I hope it warms up a little as it is very cold in the mornings here now. Ice freezes on the little puddles of water so you see it is cold. The days warm up some but not like they did before. We have been wearing our field jackets all day long and they feel good too. Saturday Pike's Peak was covered with snow but it was gone by yesterday afternoon.

The other day one of the officers ask me if I had turned in my application for officers candidate school as yet and when I told him no he ask

me why not. So I talked with him and then
a day or two later I talked to the CO about it
and he said he would recommend me to the
best of his ability if I wanted to go in for it.
After a little talking and quite a lot of thinking
I have decided not to go for it for the time
being. Maybe someday I will be sorry for
making up my mind this way but I can always
put in my application if I change my mind and
the CO said any time I did he would still recommend
for it.

I wish we were over here because in the
mountains we can't have any heat in the
barracks until we get back and these mornings
are damn cold when we get up.

I am writing this in the day room and there
is a lot of confusion. The boys are playing cards
and talking and writing letters and between it all
I can't think so I guess I will close for now with
all my love. Do you miss me as much as I
miss you? I hope so and can hardly wait
for a furlough. By for now sweet will write again
soon.

Always love
Don
V X R

Letter # 2



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

2345 o'clock
Nov 6 1943

Dear Sweetheart :-

Well I suppose you will think I am drunk cause here I am writing to you again the same nite. I am perfectly sober & in my right mind but you know sitting here in the Guard House with nothing to do gives you too much time to think so I decided to write you again.

I posted my guards at 2200 o'clock & then come back to the Guard House & the Officer of the Day told me to go to the Mess hall & get some coffee for the guards. While I was there waiting for the coffee to be made I talked the cooks into giving me something to eat so I had $\frac{1}{2}$ of a sildain steak & about 12 raw oysters. That was some feed for 1030 at nite but it sure tasted good. In fact it was the first real steak I have had since landing home.

Since I wrote your first letter I have



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

written eleven other letters so I am pretty well caught up now. I had been getting farther behind in my writing each day as I only write to you & maybe to Dad during the weeks. I am afraid maybe some of the letters didn't make much sense as I felt sort of jumbled in my mind. I don't know why I get that way but I do once in a while but it soon passes away, I believe that maybe I am trying to learn too much all at once. I am O.K. though 'cause after a good nights rest I go right out the next day & start all over again. As I have said before I am really getting a lot of useful knowledge free.

I don't want to count my chickens before they are hatched but I have heard that the C.O. has come in line for a line officers (NCO) job. I hope so because in this outfit that is what I would like. I believe I told you that Evans was to go out on the Sabre that leaves here, anyway the C.O. has changed his mind & is going to keep him here & send out another man instead. I am glad because



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

he & I get along so well together & had a lot of fun.

I am getting so I can clamp down on the boys in my squad & not feel bad about it anymore. Today I refused two men passes into town and although they didn't like it I believe I can sleep well tonight and not even feel sorry for them. The P.O. is bearing down a little on us NCOs & in turn we have to bear down on the men. It used to be if something was wrong the CO would give the party or parties hell himself. Now he gives the Platoon Sgt hell & he in turn give us squad leaders hell & we have to pass it on to the privates. When it gets to the private he has no place to pass it on to so that's why he is called buck private, he can't pass the buck any further.

Well smart I believe I have rambled along for quite a while. Don't get the idea that I am not satisfied or that I am



★ CAMP CARSON, COLORADO ★

blue 'cause I am not. I'd just makes
me feel good to sit down & write you
like this. Goodnite now sweetheart you
know you have all my love & don't
worry about me. I am going to put a
little ruse on the end of this as I think
it is quite nice & applies to you & I.

Thinking of you
Your Sweetheart
Don
x x x

Since you are oh, so far away,
A curious fact I find;
The world is like a golden clock
That God - forgot to wind.

Goodnite Sweetheart



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1830 o'clock
Nov 10 1943

Dear Sweetheart :-

I got your letter with the
5⁰⁰ Money order & thanks a lot sweet.
You ask if I can use it, (ha) that
gives a laugh cause I haven't been paid
yet. They said that we would get
paid today but now we have to wait
until Friday so thanks again sweet for
the M.O.

we had a very easy day today
after the dandy we had yesterday.
We had General construction in the AM
& Mechanized Abstacles & Road Blocks
this PM. This is a free unit and
the CO told us at MCO meeting that
from now on Wed nite was the only
free nite during the week. We are
to have classed at least 1 1/2 hrs every
other nite of the week. As I told you
last nite he is punning us for our MPT



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

tests in Dec.

I found out today that our Battalion is on alert now that is part of the reason too that our free time is being taken up. Dont say anything to anyone about being on alert because that is secret information and not to be spread around. I know you won't say anything so I can tell you.

Did my letter of last nite make sense? I began to think ~~that~~ after I mailed it that maybe I had closed it rather abrupt. Anyhow if I did I didn't mean anything by it as it was probably the mood I was in.

Well Sweet I guess I will close & go down to the PX & get a couple beers after I study a little. Try for now sweet.

all my love
Don
x x x

D. :-



You keep saying in your letters
that you are going to be so dumb
compared to me when I come home. Don't
be foolish & make yourself feel bad because
the stuff they teach you is just regular
workaday stuff. When I get home things
will be just the same as they were
before so don't be foolish sweetheart.

Love

Your Hubby

XXXX XXXXX



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1825 oclock
Nov 19 1943

Dear Sweetheart :-

Well here I am again writing to the one & only. How are you tonight anyhow? Say ask Tom & Edith why they havent written us yet, tell them it has been an awful long time since I have heard from them.

Well we got through with our sick problem in great time last night. We were back at the ~~the~~ barracks at about 12:45. That is the best time any company has made so yet. You see why we are making such a name for ourselves when we can do a job quicker & better than all the rest.

The 171st Battalion is throwing a dance tonight at the Service Club so we are all getting ready to go to it & see what is what. I believe they are going to have a bunch of Wacs to dance with so we will have partners. From what I have seen of the Wacs you can have



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

them all. I haven't seen a good looking one as yet and you sure see a lot of them in Gals Eggs.

Some of the boys got gipped for dirty rifles today so they can't go to the dance and are all busy cleaning them now. The Sgt just came in to inspect their rifles now to see whether they see go or not.

I am wearing an elastic bandage on my right knee today. I banged it pretty hard hitting the ground about a week ago & it is still sore so the Medics said to put a bandage on for a while. Outside of that I am fine and as you said in your letter I am satisfied with the Eng's as a whole.

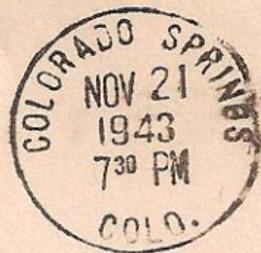
So long for now sweetheart, I'll see you in my dreams.

all my love

Don
KRR



The Acacia Hotel



COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Cpl H. G. Gale 35225857
Co A 171st Engr C Bn
Camp Carson Colorado
U.S. Army.

Mrs H. G. Gale
100 Aurdale Ave
Mansfield, Ohio



COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.,

1300 o'clock.
Nov 21 1943

Dear Sweetheart :-

Surprise, its me again and writing with pen & ink. Yes I am at the hotel again, we had such a lousy week all week that I just couldnt resist staying in town last nite. Evans, Seanthem, and myself and three other boys split the room last nite. It was crowded but a lot of fun too.

Believe it or not I got up this Am and went to Church. It didn't fall down while I was there so I guess I am not so bad after all. One of Evans friends a Mason by the name of Johns has his wife out here and so I went to her church with her this morning. She is Christian Scientist and that is the first time I have ever been in one of their churches and really it was rather interesting.



COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.,

19

We drilled til 7³⁰ last nite and the Sgt came out & let us go. I guess he wanted to go to town and he ~~go~~ couldn't go in until we were through so he released us a half hour early.

Of course the bunch of us came to town & stopped at Murphy's bar & had a couple and then up to the WRC to the dance. After the dance, back to Murphy's & closed them up & then to the hotel. We sat around up at the hotel til around 1³⁰ and went to bed and had a good nites sleep. Of course we bought one Saturday Nites Popcorn & Peanuts, and you should see the room. It looks as though a cyclone had hit it with Papers, peanut shells & popcorn all over the floor.

Evans is out shaving now and as



COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.,

19

soon as he gets back we are going out to eat. I suppose you wonder what I am using for money but I am paying my own way. I borrowed a few from one of the boys 'til Pay Day so I will get along.

I didn't get any mail from you yesterday but I suppose it is the Gov't again, as every once in a while the mail gets held up that way.

I am going to try to find out if I can get that 3 day + week end pass together and if I can I will wire you for money to come home on. I hope I can arrange it but that is like everything else, if I cant, I cant and we will have to do the next best thing + dream. You could possibly come out here but it would be so damned expensive I don't think we



COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.,

19

can afford it. It would cost you around
75⁰⁰ to come out & get back plus your food &
lodging. Evans wife was here for a week
& altogether it cost them 165⁰⁰ so you see this
rich mans town has high prices. Any way
sweetheart as soon as I know anything
definite I will let you know.

Well sweet so long for now maybe by
tomorrow I will be able to write you some
more but now I am run out of talk.

all my love

Don

x x x

Remember? - Your Hubby

KEEP YOUR CHIN UP.

Letter # 1



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

2105.oclack
Dec 15 1943

Dear Swathard;—

Well we are moving and are still somewhere in Colorado. We pulled out of Camp Carson at 4:30 P.M. then had about a 30-minute layover in Colo. spgs. at present we just got started again after about a 45-minute layover in some other town I didn't get the name of. The train is jerking and rocking so much that if you can read this you are doing good.

See sweet you know that when we pulled out of Camp I really began to think how much I did like it out here and felt sort of bad about leaving. But then I thought of how much closer I would be to you and felt a lot better.

I wish I had a picture of me to send you the way we were loaded down to go to the train. We had on our class B uniform, Goggles, steel helmets, field jackets



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

Mackinaw, Gas masks, full field packs with double blankets, Rifle and carried one full barracks bag. We went to the depot in trucks but had to walk about $\frac{1}{8}$ of a mile & it was hot & sweaty and we were carrying a load.

We have quite a train, about 16 or 17 pullman's then about 20 flats loaded with all our motorized equipment, a couple cook cars & a couple baggage cars. It is quite a heavy pull for they have double engines to keep us rolling.

I can't mail this to you until we get to Camp so will have to hold your letters til then. You should get quite a lot of mail at one creek so be sure you read them in order. I will mark the top of the first sheet so you can get them read in order.

Well I will close this one for now & write again tomorrow. Remember the song ~~Oh How~~ Oh How Miss you Poite? I do miss you
Your Sweetheart
XXX Don XXX

HEADQUARTERS
171st Engineer Combat Battalion

Camp Carson, Colorado,
14 December 1943.

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 82)

1. The VOCO, 13 December 1943, relieving Capt MORGAN G. WINGET, 0262430, from primary duty as Asst S-3 and transferring him to Company B are confirmed.
2. The VOCO, 13 December 1943, transferring 1st Lieut. THOMAS L. NOVOSAD, 01107001 from Company B to Headquarters and Service Company are confirmed.
3. The VOCO, 13 December 1943, transferring 2nd Lieut. STEPHEN M. THOMAS, 0523331 from Company A to Company C are confirmed.
4. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, dated 30 June 1943, and upon recommendation of their Company Commanders, the following appointments are announced:

FIRST SERGEANT (TEMP)
S/Sgt JACK D. CLIFFORD, 371147382 Co. C

STAFF SERGEANT (TEMP)
Sgt ELMER W. PLANCHON, 37501705 Co. C
Sgt JOHN KUESTER, JR., 36746169 Co. A
Sgt MARTIN S. SIEMBIEDA, 35591206 Co. A

SERGEANT (TEMP)
Cpl HOWARD L. BARKLEY, 35225849 Co. C
Cpl LOUIS E. DULEY, 35225559 Co. C
Cpl CHARLES B. MYERS, 35233932 Co. C
Cpl WILLIS R. PRATT, 35225876 Co. C
Cpl DONNEL G. GALE, 35225857 Co. A
Cpl FRANK A. EVANS, 35225782 Co. A
Cpl RALPH S. CADWALLADER, 35912313 Co. A
Cpl JAMES R. NELSON, 35234572 Co. A
T 5 MARTIN MORSMAN, 36407071 Co. A
T 5 GORDON V. WANGEN, 37421228 Co. C

CORPORAL (TEMP)
Pfc GLENN D. AMOR, 35892377 Co. C
Pfc CLYDE R. FRANKENFIELD, 35225856 Co. C
Pfc QUENTIN E. PITCHER, 35226107 Co. C
Pfc PAUL M ENGER, 35069822 Co. A
Pfc PETER VARICHAK, 35892344 Co. A

TECHNICIAN V GRADE (TEMP)
Pfc HOWARD B. JOHN, 35225781 Co. C
Pfc HERBERT S. RICHMOND, 35759121 Co. C
Pfc ALBERT A. RAUF, 35872940 Co. A
Pfc WARD E. BORAM, 35892257 Co. A

By order of Major KEASEY:

WILLIAM L. SIMPSON,
2nd Lieut., 171st Engineer Combat Battalion,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

William L. Simpson
WILLIAM L. SIMPSON,
2nd Lieut., 171st Engineer Combat Battalion,



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1000 o'clock
Dec 19 1943

Dear Sweetheart: -

Hello sweet how are you today? I am rather cold and dirty. We arrived in Lebanon about 6 am and sat there doing nothing until 6 PM last evening then we moved by truck to our campsite about 25 miles away. You can imagine a cold bunch of hungry soldiers trying to set up in the dark and cold. It wasn't any too pleasant but we finally ate about 9 PM & then to bed. We had a hell of a time trying to keep warm as every time we went to sleep the fire went out & too we didn't have much wood. I got about 4 hrs sleep off & on but feel pretty good so I slept quite a bit yesterday



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

while we were sitting around doing nothing.

We are living in pyramided tents and the one we are in has 4ft wood sides and a wood floor but it is still cold. There are cracks in the floor and quite a lot of cold air comes up through them. There are 6 of us sleeping here, 5 sgt's & 1 cpl. We get along OK so far and probably will for as long as we are here. It could be a lot worse but personally and I think 90% of the Co. would like to be back in Colorado.

We are about a mile outside of a little town called Hartsville. It is just a typical, country cross roads town and has a few stores etc and that is about all. Lebanon is about 25 miles away and has a population of about 5000 and



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

is a much nicer place than Hexterille.

Well sweet I guess I have run
out of conversation again. So I will close
for now and hope we have a mail call
soon. We haven't had one since Tues.
and I imagine it will be a day or
two before we do. When it does
come we will probably all get a
bunch of letters. Good by for now
sweetheart, all my love.

Your Sargent
Don
kax



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

1930 o'clock

Dec 22, 1943

Dear Sweetheart:-

Hello sweet I just got your letter of Dec 14th this evening along with about 400 Christmas cards. Of course your letter went to Carson & was forwarded from there that is what took it so long. I hope tomorrow I receive a lot more as there is 11 bags of mail in Bn Hq to be sorted out for me I got a card from Dad with a \$5.00 bill in it which was very nice don't you think?

Well sweet we started to build flooring & siding sections to winterize our tents with today. We got all the floor sections assembled & most of the side sections so will probably start installing them about Friday. It was fairly nice this afternoon until about 3:30 and then a raw cold came up and by 4:30 we were all just about frozen. This Permian damp cold weather sure soaks into



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

you so much more than that in
Salocado. Then to top it off one
stone pipe was filled with soot so
we had to take that down & clean it
out & put it back up before we had
any heat in the tent. It was nice &
warm though just a few minutes ago before
I came down to Evans tent to write.

This is going to be a rather
dull Xmas for us isn't it? In fact
it will be the first one we have been
apart since we started going together.
Maybe I am a little on the blue or
sentimental side tonight, do you think?

We lost one S.O. this week, he was
transferred to Bu 22 and we have a
Captain Falkner as S.O. command now. He
is a rather quite type and different
than our other Old Man but I'll get
along with him OK don't worry. Since
I have been in the 1st platoon the Sgt
I had the trouble with has been worse
than ever. In fact I believe the guys



★ CAMP CARSON, COLORADO ★

likes me and did before but
wouldn't admit it.

Evans just got back from the
kitchen with a sandwich for us so will
stop for a little bit. I got the onions
this AM so we are going to have a
salami sandwich with onions. Really
we have only had two good meals since
we have been here & don't get enough to
eat then so we are a little on the
hungry side all the time.

Here I am again, the sandwich
was swell but would have been so much
better to have had a cup of coffee & you
with it. You know sweet sometimes
I miss you so much it hurts. I can
imagine getting into bed tight &
snuggling down close to you to get
warm etc (?). See wouldn't that be
swell? I guess it won't be for a
while though so I had better forget it
for now. I won't forget it for good



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

though so don't worry about that.

Joy & rapture sure filled the camp last night as they took us to town to the schoolhouse & let us take a shower. Gee did it feel good, it was the first bath for a week and I sure felt heavenly. There is one little secret in getting a good shower that way though & that is to get in on the first truck load of men. That way you get to use warm water and after about the first 30 men it begins to get cold. (I was on the first truckload). But regardless of that we were clean again and that was something. According to plans we will get to go to the schoolhouse every 4 or 5 days for a shower. That isn't everyday as I have been doing but that will keep the worst of the dirt off.

Say sweet will you call Bert Verian & give him my new address and tell him to let the Glee office know it too? I only got one or two change of address



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

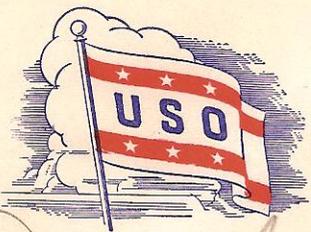
cards and figured you could take care of the ones in town + P.R. Co.

I don't know whether I told you or not but I am writing this by candle light. We finally managed to get some candles so our tents are not quite so dark at night now and we also have a lite to see to dress by in the A.M.

I got your dads letter & it was good to hear from him. Tell him thanks for writing & to do it again even if I don't answer right away.

Well sweet I guess I have written enough tonight so will close. Remember I still love you as much as ever and am thinking of you always.

Your Sergeant
Don
xxx



2300 o'clock
Dec 24 1943

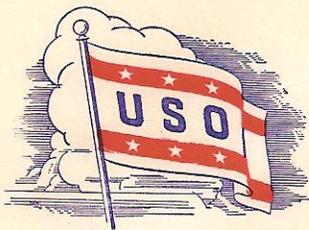
Dear Sweetheart; -

Merry Christmas on this Christmas Eve. Wish I were there to say it in person, don't you? I have been blue & lonesome all day and I believe that goes for practically 50% of the fo.

We got to town tonite and it is just a waste of time to come in. Nothing in here but there are only two beer joints. No one sells liquor and we got into one beer joint in time to get 2 beers before they sold out. The other one has been out since Wed. so it has been a very dry and not too cheerful an Xmas eve. Enough of my blues

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THE SALVATION ARMY • THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD • THE NATIONAL TRAVELLERS AID ASSOCIATION

U S O IS FINANCED THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

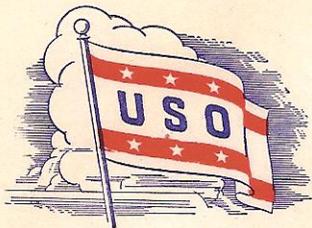


I am writing this at the USO in town while waiting for a truck going out to camp. The USO is not so hot just in place the soldiers can congregate a little. Interruption

A 2 1/2 ton truck was leaving so we got on it to go back to camp. Here I am in camp so will finish before going to bed.

We bought 3 cans of beans, a pound of coffee, some canned milk, and some wokies while in town so we will have an evening meal sometime this week.

We finished our tents today so am sleeping on wood floors tonight. I hope they are warmer than the tents without floors. We damn near froze again last night as it got very cold here again.



I was going to try to call you tonight but the call would have taken from 5 to 7 hours to get through and I couldn't be in town that long so I will call you in the near future when the service is better.

No mail from you today again & I can't figure it out. I got the letters you wrote the 14th & 16th but that is all. I suppose all I can do though is wait & they will eventually catch up to me.

Well sweet, will close for now. All my love & again I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Thinking of you

Don
x x x
x

HEADQUARTERS  SECOND ARMY

A. P. O. 402
NASHVILLE, TENN.

2030 o'clock
Dec 29 1943

Dear Sweetheart :-

Oh joy & rapture, we just got back from taking a shower & do I feel clean once again. The problem is still on down here but we were taken in to town by truck & right back so that was O.K. Anyhow we are clean again.

I am sort of disgruntled at Uncle Sam today. This is the fourth day and no mail from you. As I said last nite I know it isn't your fault.

I am writing this by a self made lamp tonite. I have a jar, about the size of a Yuma jar, with a screw top lid with a hole in it through which I have a piece of cotton rope. I borrowed some coal oil and presto a coal oil lamp. It smokes a little but it makes lite after a fashion so I guess maybe you will be able to read this.

We were up in the hills today after wood and Man you should see how some of the people live here in Penn. Some of the shacks they live in and conditions are terrible. Small old shacks, one room and maybe 2 windows which are generally broken out. Generally

there is two or three or four living in the
shack, now, don't ask me. It seems all
they raise down here ~~is~~^{is} ~~is~~, pigs, sheep
tobacco & kids. Tell dad I wish
he could have had the beautiful Black Walnut
tree we cut down for firewood. It was about
24 inches across at the base and just as solid as
a rock, I really felt bad to know that it was
going to be burned for firewood.

I also picked some mistletoe out of one
of the trees we cut and will put a piece in this
letter. I hope it gets to you OK & if it does
you hang it up & stand under it & dream I
am kissing you. I'm the Gummy that is
known as simulating.

Outside of cutting wood we didn't do
anything today as it was still too wet to do
any road work. Oh by the way it did
finally stop raining last nite & it ~~turned~~^{turned}
cold with a sharp wind & all. Of course our
fire went out too so it was damn cold getting
upton Am.

We are waiting here for water to get
hot to brew a cup of coffee. I don't believe
we will have anything to eat with it unless
someone comes in with something. \$

I wrote to Aunt Mabel last nite after

A. P. O. 402
NASHVILLE, TENN.

I finished your letter. I didn't have her address before but she sent me an Xmas card and so I got it that way.

Evans celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary yesterday and wasn't able to get to town to send a greeting to his wife or anything. Coincidentally he just said it was today instead of yesterday.

I understand that the Manure problem is going to be over tomorrow mite. I hope so cause if it is I sure am going to get a hair cut. Yep I am getting pretty shaggy. Also I think I need one to go with my nice clean bath suit you?

Well sweetheart so that you will get it in time here is the midnite kiss for you for New Years Eve (X). Have a good time & don't mope around just because I can't be there.

Good mite for now sweet, I still love you the same as ever.

Your Sweetheart
Dora
X X X



1930 clock
Jan 11 1944

Dear Sweetheart :-

Just a line tonight my sweet. Are you surprised at the address on the Envelope? Don't write to me here though as I am just passing through. Keep on writing to A postor

We went out at the rock quarry this AM and a jeep came for me to return to Hdqrs. as the CO wanted to see me. When I got back he told me that he had picked me to go to Acuna to pick up a prisoner and return him to the Co. It is one of the boys that went AWOL and was picked up by the M.P.s and is now at Camp Reynolds Pa ready to be brought back. I am going to do my darndest to get a chance to stop at Msd but if you get this letter & don't see me you will know I didn't succeed. Camp Reynolds is just about 20 miles from Ygetown Ohio so as I said I am going to see what I can do. Well the maneuvers ended tonight &

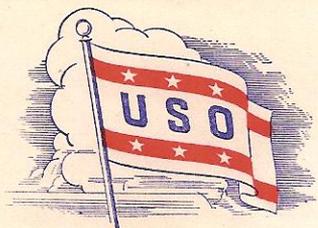


1800 according to the information I got before
I left camp. Maybe we will be pulling out of
Tumucac before long and we are all hoping
and praying that we do. One never knows
though so we are not banking on it too
much.

See sweet here I am writing from a
heated barnacke and in lite furnished by
electricity instead of candles, It is almost
unbeliscable but it is true. Another thing, I
have had a list shone and am all cleaned
up with no place to go.

See it its so nice laying here soaking
up the heat & I am so lazy & tired I believe I
will go to bed. Good-nite sweet and pray that
my wish of being able to stop comes true.

All my love
Don
x x x



2325 o'clock

Jan 1st 1944

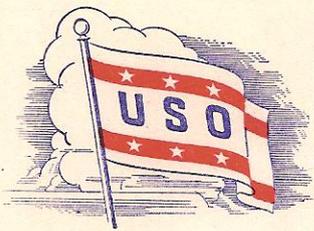
Dear Sweetheart:-

Here I sit looking at your picture and writing you a letter. I got the package this evening and it was sure swell. Your picture though topped off the whole package, if that was all you sent me I would be well pleased. I have gone up & down Mud Ave. and showed it to all of the boys that have been showing me their wives pictures & making me feel funny 'cause I never had one of you.

Well we had a nice time last night but your hubby got his nose very wet in fact they led me home. I am sorry today that I let go last night but I

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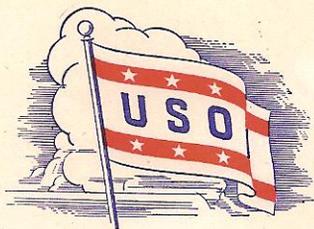
U S O IS FINANCED THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND



wasn't the only one and anyway what
the hell. I guess I can get drunk once
in the while if I wait to. Evans & I
bought a quart of whiskey (\$8.00 per qt) and
were very haggish in that we drank
most of it ourselves. Then of course you
bored me, I drank ale with it and
all of a sudden bingo. Anyway sweet
it was all OK as I got back to camp
& in bed & today I believe I felt better
than 90% of the boys. I was a little low
in spirits this AM but full of pep this
P.M. The Lt that had charge of our
funny last nite even kidded me about
feeling bad last nite & if they would
have been mad at us they wouldn't
have been any joking going on. I believe

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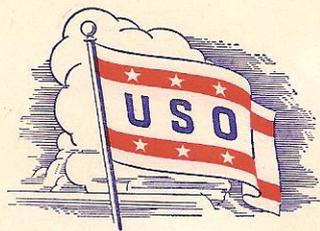
U S O IS FINANCED THROUGH THE NATIONAL WAR FUND



they expect a lot of high heads Jan 1st

what a wonderful way to spend
the New Years day. We worked on a road
job all day long and the boys felt
pretty bad about having to work too.
But there we are though so what. Evans
& I went to town this evening & I
placed a call to you but we waited
until we had to get out of town (2300 o'clock)
and no success. I am going to keep trying
though and one of these times I will
reach you O.K.

We no longer are a part of the
11th Corps Engineers. Effective last night
at 2400 hours we automatically became
members of the 16th Corps. Good or bad

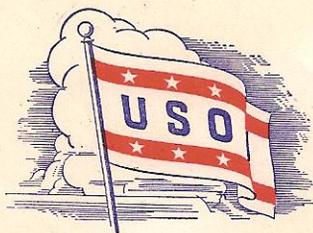


I don't know but ^{we} ~~are~~ nevertheless
16th Boys Engls.

Rumors are still flying about
what & when we are going to do
things but now I am beginning to
let them go in one ear & out the other.

Evans just got back from a
mailing reconnection with one beer and
has gone out again to see if he can't
find another.

I got two letters from you today also
my sweet, One you sent the 24th and one the
29th that is how screwy our mail is. Say
I forgot to even say thanks for the things
you all the rest sent me. That box
of candy Bob had in the yep some
hit the spot. You know that I
never had ~~much~~ of a sweet tooth but the



Army sure makes you crave candy
especially ~~straw~~ chocolate, I have
eaten more candy in five months
than I would at home in 14 years.

Well sweet I can't think of any more
to tell you so will close for now. Don't
forget I love you and I am thinking of
you every day. Goodnite for now.

Jerry Sargent
Don
xxx

Tennessee Maneuvers

"Somewhere in Tennessee"

2230 o'clock
Dec 7 1944

Dear Sweetheart: -

Hello sweet, yes I am very late in writing to you. We had a free ride tonight & could go to town so naturally we went. Of course beer was on tap & maybe I have had a few more than is necessary. No I am not drunk but I know I have been drinking.

Nothing new or startling happened today, we were out on some State Highway culvert work all day and covered approx 120 miles in & around this area. It was interesting in that we got to see some of the country but as far as work was concerned it was monotonous.

It was cold last night and has been all day. Our noses dripped & ran all day and between culverts we got cold. Maybe Tennessee is finally getting ~~this~~ its winter. Two days in a row ^{now} and no rain is something to write about.

In our travels the last two days I have seen a few beautiful spots in this country but

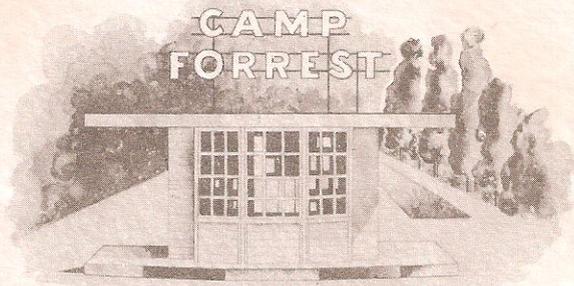
I would still like Ohio, Mich, or Colorado
for scenery.

We had an exciting incident today when
our chimney ~~was~~ caught on fire & started to drop
sparks on the tent. There was only one man
here at our tent & he was as busy as the
of one armed paper hangar with the 7yr steel.

We have 27 additional holes in one tent roof
now ranging from $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. I hope when
it starts to rain that the rain misses the holes.

well sweet I will close for now. Yes I got
a letter from you today so I was happy again.
I hope you can read this OK as between the
bee & the candle lite it is sort of flickering.
Goodnite for now my sweet. Always love + remembrance
I am always thinking of you.

Yours Sincerely
Dow
X X X



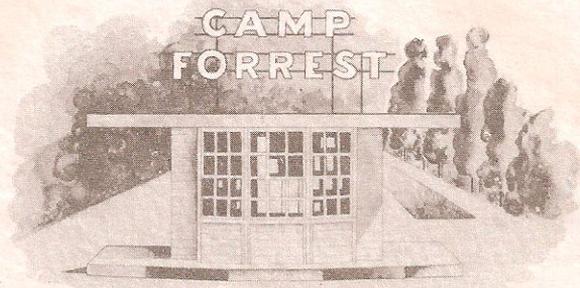
TENNESSEE

2020 schools
Jan 12 1944

Dear Sweetheart:—

Well sweet it looks now as though I won't be able to get the break & stop at Mansfield to see you. That is not definite as yet but I am still in Camp Forrest and won't get out of here tonight. Maybe I will get out tomorrow I hope as I have to be in Camp Reynolds Pa the 15th, you know if I get the opportunity that I will stop to see you. Anyway I won't stop trying but if I can't make it that will be all this is to it. Don't worry though as I believe our furloughs are coming up again as soon as we get back to camp.

Today was the laziest day I believe I have spent since I joined. I haven't done a thing all day except eat three times, take charge of a clean up detail for about 1 hr and the rest of



TENNESSEE

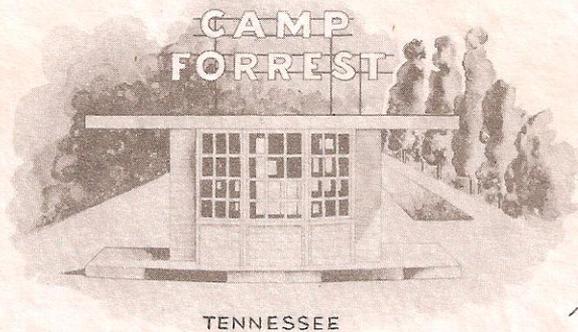
the time I spent sleeping. I sure did last nite when I hit the hay, it must have been the warm barracks, the bed and bath. I slept without even snoring I believe and felt good when I woke up this morn.

I met two boys from A Co tonight and was up to the PX & had a few beers & a sandwich. They are going to go to school & are here writing shipping orders. It was nice to meet them as everyone here is strange.

Well sweet I don't have anymore to say except the same as I said yesterday keep your fingers crossed & hope I can make a stop. Don't forget I love you more every day if it is possible.

Joe Sargent
Don
xxx

Am writing this in bed so
excuse the writing
xx
Dg

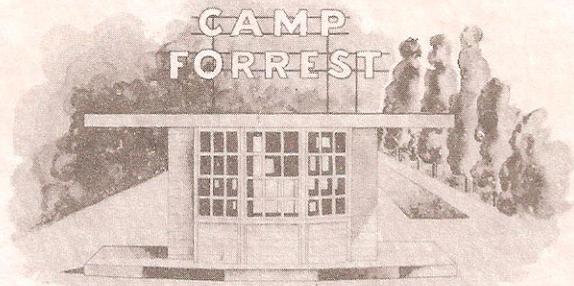


1730 o'clocks
Jan 13 1944

Dear Sweetheart: —

Hello sweetheart here I am again and of course as usual I don't have anything to say. No I haven't left Camp Forrest yet so it looks as though my chance for getting home for a few hours on my way to Penna. I ask about my getting away from here today but all the satisfaction I got was that the Camp here would send a written letter with me explaining why I was detained here if I was sure to be late in arriving at Camp Reynolds.

Anyway whether I am here or in the mud or at Camp Reynolds you know that I still love you and am always thinking of you. Gee I think your Old Man is getting romantic in his old days dont you?

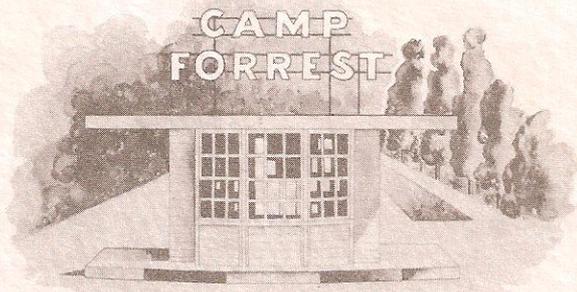


TENNESSEE

Regardless of whether I am or am not
as long as I am connected with just you
it is ~~OK~~ isn't it? Of course it is, and
you know that you are the one & only.

See I wish there was something
to do here. Of course there are dirty details
but who wants to do those, I don't. We
have to stay close to the barracks, always
expecting to be called every time for shipment.
Every time anyone comes in we look up hoping
he is looking for you and then they will
call someone by your name so you go back
to sleep again. Honey I have really caught
upon a lot of lost sleep since Pres.
nite. As I told you last nite it sure
is good to sleep in a warm barracks
again.

We are waiting now for 1800 Rail Call
so I won't close this as yet 'til I find out



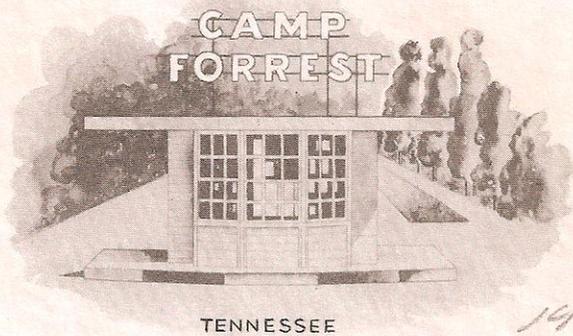
whether I leave here or not. I hope so
cause I want to be moving.

How are all the gang in Mansfield?
I have plenty of time to write but I guess
maybe I don't have the energy. Anyway
all the letters I have to answer are back at
camp so ~~I~~ I don't know what questions are
to be answered. I guess I will let it go
til I get back.

Well sweet will do for now still keeping
my fingers crossed & hoping for the thing
I want. You know what that is. Always
love sweet, so long for now. If I don't get
to see you I will call you from Camp Reynolds.
Your Sweetheart
Don
xxx

P.S. -

Rail fall is over and I wasn't called so I
guess I am stuck for another day. So long Sweet
Don
xxx



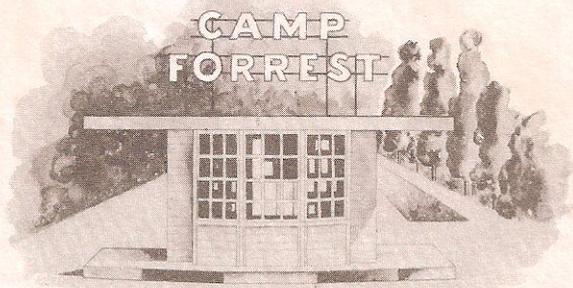
1045 o'clock
Jan 14/1944

Dear Sweethead:-

Hello honey, yes I am still here at Camp Forrest. I believe they are beginning to like me around here 'cause I am still here and waiting. Darnit anyway I thought maybe I could take a break on this trip & see you but it looks very doubtful now.

As usual I don't have anything to say because there isn't anything doing here. All I have done today again is eat & sleep. There have been so many new men coming in here for shipment that the barracks are all full & they even have cots in the day room to take care of some of the men.

One of the men & myself went to the show last night, the first since I left Colorado. After wards we stopped



TENNESSEE

at the PX and had a few beers. We went down there this noon to eat but no soup as they didn't have a thing to eat so it was back to the chow line for us.

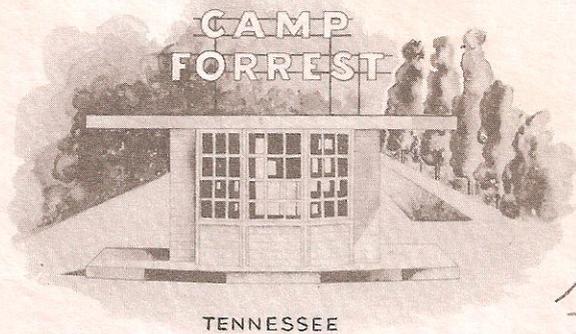
Well sweet as there isn't anything else of importance to say I will close for now but I won't seal this until after mail call tonight. Don't forget, I still love you and am thinking of you.

Your Sweetheart
Don
xxx

RL-1705 o'clock

Rail call just made & I'm out at 1800. So long for now sweet

Don
xxx



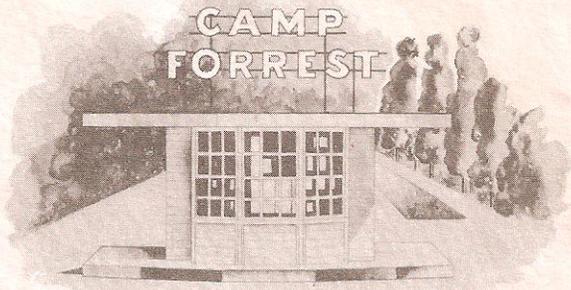
1800 o'clock
Jan 18 1944

Dear Sweetheart :-

Hello sweet, well I got back to Forrest safe & sound as you knew I would. Latessa wasn't any trouble at all. We got into Camp about 12:30 today and are now in the guard house. I am still responsible for Latessa as this camp resumes no responsibility for the prisoners so Latessa & I have to sleep in the guard house tonight. It isn't too bad though and there are a lot more guards & prisoners in here too.

Oh sweet wasn't it wonderful to be able to see each other & do things together again even if it was only for a short time. I know we both felt bad in having to part so soon again but just think how nice it will be to get together again.

Will you thank Ruth & Hugh's Dancer for



TENNESSEE

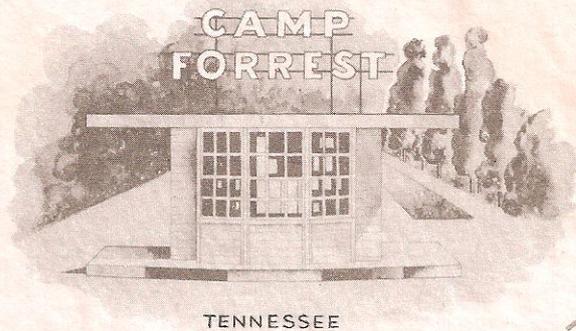
Being so nice to you & I said for doing so
much for us. They are really swell people
that Dullons.

Don't forget to get that front left tire
fixed. That is dangerous dear & so I would
like you to have Henry take care of that
at once.

Well about nothing else to say so good night
for now. Will write you again tomorrow as
usual. All Guy love.

Your sweetheart

Doug
x x x

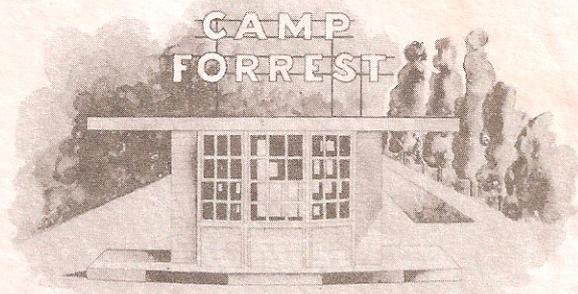


1510 o'clock
Jan 19 1944

Dear Sweetheart:-

Hello sweetheart, yes I am still thinking of you and the wonderful few hours we had together. I know you are doing the same thing.

Yes I am still in the Guard house at Camp Forrest waiting for transportation back to the muddy hills around Hartsville. You know how being here at Forrest is very disgusting as no one seems to know what the score is. Of course we don't have to work on anything but can you imagine about 80 of us sleeping in a room about 20 x 60 ft. It is rather crowded with a lot sleeping on the floor and of course it is rather stuffy. I slept quite well last night and most of the morning and again some this afternoon so I am



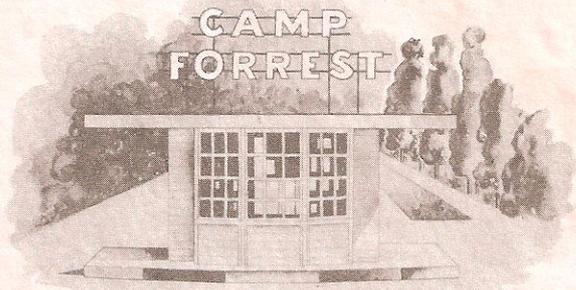
TENNESSEE

pretty well caught up with my sleep
again.

There are a couple colored boys in here
and they sure give us a good time for about
an hour today explaining how they got picked
up by the M.P.s & what was said & done. Of course
I imagine a lot of it was put on but still it
was funny and made us ~~laugh~~ ^{laugh} for a while.

How is the weather in camp? It has
been just as nice here at Forrest yesterday
& today as it was in camp. Sat. & Sun. of
course it is quite cool nites and this AM there
was a very heavy frost.

See sweet I don't know of anything else
I can write about except to tell you how
much I love you and of course you don't
want to hear that do you? (Oh no!) Anyway
you know that I do love you with all



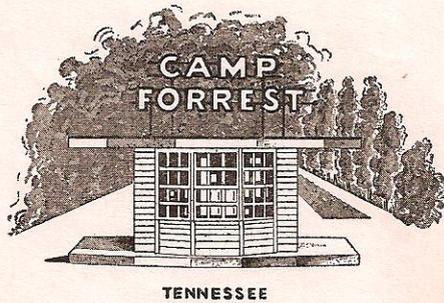
TENNESSEE

my heart, all my mind, & all my soul,
in fact the poem about the golden clock
is still a very good way of expressing my
love for you.

Give my best wishes to everyone, and
don't forget to get that front tire fixed.

Again I say it is dangerous so don't delay in
having Kenny take care of it. All my love
sweet, will close for now & hope that Latessa
& I get shipped out of here tomorrow AM.

Your Sweetheart
Daw
xxx



1100 o'clock
Jan 21 1944

Dear Sweetheart:-

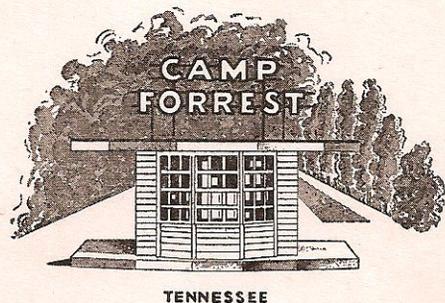
Hello my sweet, yes I am still here waiting for shipment. There was an NCO come in this AM & told us we would be here another week yet & I sure hope he was wrong. Honestly this life is sure making us a lazy bunch of soldiers. Nothing to do all day but lay around and read & write & sleep. The Lt in charge was just in and now we have to scrub the barracks. Just something to keep us busy I guess, they can't see us doing nothing.

There isn't anything else to write about so this will be a rather short letter I guess. I can't think of anything else to say except I love you and you know that without any saying so. It is almost time to eat so I guess we will go to the barracks after show. Well sweet so long for now, I'll see you in my dreams.

Always love
Don
xxx

PS -
I know this is short but maybe I can do better tomorrow.

Love
Don
xxx



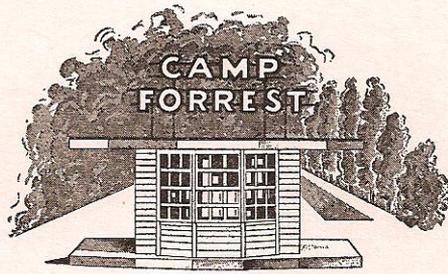
1330 o'clock
Jan 20 1944

Dear Sweetheart:

Yes darling I am still at Forrest waiting, and it is getting rather tiresome. The Old Man back at our Camp will begin to think that I have gone over the hill too maybe. Wouldn't that be a joke if he would send out for me while I was out after someone else? Of course he won't do that but it would still be funny.

We got transferred out of the Guard house yesterday afternoon and are now billeted in a section of Barracks. It is really nice here as we have room to sleep etc. Hot water & showers, so it rather like being back in Colorado. It is still rather monotonous with nothing to do but lay around and wait for notice that we are shipping but as we are on special duty the Army can't give us details so that means we lay around & eat & sleep.

I slept all morning & Latanea wrote letter now he is sleeping & I am writing. I think

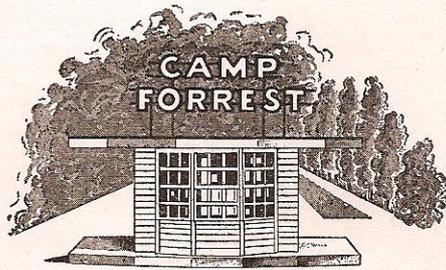


TENNESSEE

after I finish this letter I will drop a line to (his) Marion & tell them how close I was to them & couldn't stop. I forgot to tell you too but the Erie train went right by their house, you know where the tracks are by the machine shop, well that is where we passed the Alexander house. Pretty close (ah wat?) without even being able to stop or say hello.

It has turned cold here today & I was wondering if it was warmer cold in Mass? I suppose now that we are about due to ship back to camp it will turn nasty again so as to make it disagreeable working. I hope not but that is one thing I can't do anything about so I may as well stop hoping.

See sweet do you realize that when I don't do anything that it just seems impossible to write an interesting letter. I try to write you each day of the days happening but as nothing happens here it sort of put me



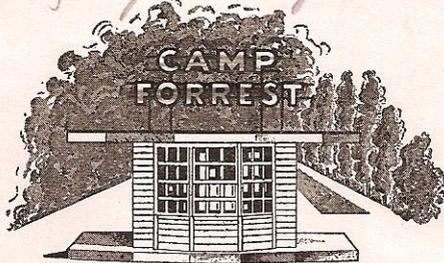
TENNESSEE

on the spot.

Well sweet, my truck tank has run dry
so I guess I will close & send you all of my
love as ever.

Your Sweetheart
Don
x x x

Camp A. H. of the W.



TENNESSEE

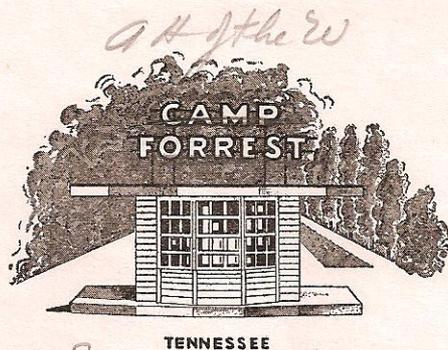
1945 o'clock
Jan 23 1944

Dear Sweetheart:-

Yes darling I am a bad boy. I didn't write to you last nite although my intentions were good. I will explain.

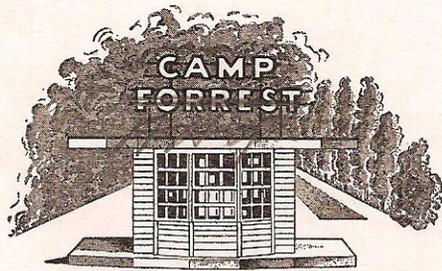
I got out of Camp Forrest about 0800 yesterday and got back to this camp about 1400 o'clock. We had a rather rough ride in the truck from Forrest to here but what the heck I got back. After getting here the CO was out in the field so I had to sit around & wait for him. He got back about 5:15 and I reported in etc & then ate and then I went to town with Jacketta & another guy. Seantham was in town already. I intended to write you from the ~~the~~ USO in town but you know how it is, I got to drinking with the boys & putting off writing until it was too late so I came back to camp & went to bed. I am sorry sweet but I know you will forgive me this time.

Now sweet I have some news for you again. First I caught a little cold the four



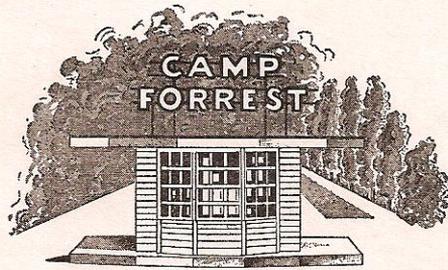
days I spent in Forrest coming back. It isn't very bad & I think I will get over it very quickly. Can you imagine though, sleeping all winter in the cold & wet & then when I sleep in a warm barracks & mites I catch cold. The other news, while I was gone the Bn was given 6 day furloughs to about 20% of the men. My name was on the list and not being here someone else got my place. I felt bad about it of course but then I looked at it this way, if I took a 6 day furlough now, when we get to camp & get our 15 day furloughs I would only have 9 days left. This way when we get our good furlough I can take it all at once. I asked for a 3 day pass inasmuch as I lost out on the furlough, but don't know yet whether I will get it or not. Keep your fingers crossed dear & soon as I learn anything definite I will let you know.

Now comes the other news, I don't know whether it is good or bad anyway here it is. I am going to be taken out of the line platoon



TENNESSEE

and put in headquarters platoon and now comes the laugh. I am going to be mess sergeant. Yes I know it sounded funny to me too but the CO ask me to take it so I said I would try. I told them I didn't know anything about it but was told that it wouldn't take long to catch on. I don't have to cook or anything like that, just take charge of the kitchen, see that things are kept right & clean & keep the coaks on the ball, see that meals are ready on time and make out the menus. I can see that it will mean a lot of work & some worry until I get things going anyway but I can do it so there. If I can't make a go of it I will come back to the line platoon again. Here now is the best part of the whole deal, the new job will call for another promotion, of course not immediately but in the very near future also it means a lot less physical labor especially down here in the mud. I hope I have made a wise decision but I thought it over all last night & today and talked with the old mess Sgt and also to the 1st Sgt. The 1st Sgt said to take it as I was the one the old man chose for the job and I really didn't have much choice to turn it down. He also said if there were any vacancies



come up in the line for ^{TENNESSEE} Platoon Sgt he would want me back on the line. So taking everything into consideration I hope it comes out OK.

I had a bunch of letters waiting for me here at camp. Most of them from you with one from Dad, one from Elmer & one from Don Elliott. Also the package of Cigarettes. You said something about another pkg but there was only one here so if you can remember who sent it have them check on it as it isn't here.

We worked as usual, on this Sunday, out at the quarries. Today was the last day for our platoon out there, we go out on roads again tomorrow for a change. I will be with the platoon for about 3 or 4 days yet so I will get a little labor in before changing jobs. I slept all morning today but still feel a little lousy with this cold.

well swatheat I can't think of any more to tell you so will close for now. I love you sweet & I guess you know that don't you? Good nite for now dear.

Your Sergeant
Don
xxx



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

Woodstock
Jan 25 1944

Dear Sgt's wife :-

Putty snazzy heading eh
wat? Hello sweet, were you able to
read my letter of last nite? I don't
imagine it was very legible but it
doesn't happen very often so please
forgive me. I guess I celebrated my
new job a little too much, it was one
your dada \$500 too, remember he said to
have a hell of a good time on it. I got
through the first day OK and no trouble
at all. It was practically all greek but I
believe I can catch on all right.

I forgot to mention it before but the
"cookies" arrived all safe & sound. I haven't
opened the box yet as Evans is on furlough
but he will be back tomorrow so will
probably have them tomorrow nite.

Say darling if you can do it
without any trouble I would like you



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

to go ahead & get the old 36D9 plate again this year. As for the filling out of the papers, just take them down to the Auto Club & they will do it for you and also they will send the papers in for the license. Don't forget to take the notarized copy for 1944 showing that you can sign for the plates OK. I am glad you had the two fixed because it worried me after I saw it and how bad it was. That is OK to change it to the rear and it doesn't hurt them at all to change them around.

I have been trying to write to Dad since I got back but just haven't seemed to be able to write but will as soon as I finish this. The more that I think of it the more I feel that if that will make him happy, that is the thing for him to do. Anyway I am not going to say anything to make him feel bad. Do you think I am doing right that way?



CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

I won't be able to get a 3 day pass now at least for a couple weeks anyway as I will spend most of my time in the kitchen (still sounds funny doesn't it?) as soon as I get things rolling my way in there maybe I can do something about a pass to visit you for a day. I heard that there was a possibility that there may become more furloughs given from here and I believe if there should be & I get one I will take it even if it would cut down on one later on. What do you say to that?

I forgot to tell you that when I get back to camp A.H. of the W. there was two more of our boys "over the hill". One of them came back today ~~but~~ but the other one is still out. I don't suppose the new job will let me go out after prisoners anymore



★ CAMP CARSON, COLORADO ★

through.

I got my 1944 Dues card from
Venus Lodge yesterday. I wonder if Al
Nachten said anything to them. Also I
got my copy of Baker Pines too. Pretty
good for one day, two Masonic letters, don't
you think so?

Well sweetheart I guess I will sign
off for now. See you in my dreams.

all my love

your mess

Sgt.

Don.

XXX