



UNITED STATES ARMY

Sunday Morning,

Dear June,

The past week has really been a busy one for me being out in the field. Our first night we had to follow a compass course, blackout, but the night was clear so it wasn't too hard. The next ~~night~~ morning we went through the Nazi village. It consists of about 20 houses all filled with dynamite and Booby Traps. The ~~object~~ object being to crawl in with a squad of men and take the village house by house. To do this we given 5 rounds of live ammunition which we fired at ~~demons~~ that would appear in the windows.

The dynamite and targets was all control from a tower behind us where a fellow would set ~~to~~ it off as we approached. One fellow lost his foot due to the fact that the control man set the charge off to soon.

(2)

I was a squad leader so I had to enter each house and to do so I would have to throw something at the door of the house to get of the Booby traps. They even had the steps and windows all rigged up with traps.

It sure was a lot of fun and really realistic. They were a church with a cemetery at the side and you would make use of the graves for cover to fire from. They also had a Blacksmith shop with a horse head over the front door.

It was complete clean down to the out houses which bore the Nazi Swastika on the door instead of the quarter moon.

Well to top the week off we made a 25 mile hike, the first of my army career, but I am afraid it isn't my last. We started walking at 7:30 AM. and finished at 3:15 P.M., taking a ten minute break every hour and a half hour for lunch. So you can see we really did some stepping.

We ate lunch at 12 o'clock and the afternoon was really hot.



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It ended that about half the battery dropped out with blisters and heat exhaustion. It soon made me wonder what the hell this is all about to walk along and see men that had fallen in their tracks face down and out like a light.

This is Mountainous country and that, along with the heat made harder than you can imagine. Well on the last mile we had a gradual incline that seemed to go straight up. Well I had missed the hike so much up to then but it sure got hard and every step I would take would seem like the last. So I had one of those man to man talks with myself and after some hard thinking I was determined to finish now that I had made it that far.

About half way up the hill the men were laying on the side of the road and it was funny in a way when you didn't know if you could

go on or not. (4)

Well the hike finally ended and totaled about 24 miles. When we were told to fall out, I did just that. My legs and feet was so tired I could hardly lift them. I took a good shower and it seemed to pep me up and believe it or not but I wasn't even sore the next day and the best part. I didn't even get a blister on my feet. So I was really lucky.

June, I don't know what to think but it looks pretty likely that we are going overseas. We are going through this redjig training period all of which is to meet the requirement on the Overseas chart. When we will go is more or less of a guess but by the middle of August I think we will be on our way. That is the latest possible date and any time before that won't surprise me. We are scheduled to go on maneuvers again but that may just be a front to cover a departure date.

At any rate something looks as the higher up are making all kinds of inspection and we are beginning to get new equipment.



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When the time comes I sure don't think I will be afraid to go as they have trained or will train us for any thing we can go into. We have even had horse to horse combat.

Don't take to much about this as you know all about the enemy gaining information.

I haven't heard from Dotham Fodge yet but I have learned my second degree and will be ready any time they let me know. I sure hope it is soon though because I sure want to get that 3rd degree before I get away from here.

Did Bob make the flying cadets? I sure hope he does because this army ground force is sure nothing to look forward to with all the training and living condition we have to go through.

How is Morgan getting along and are you bothered with a cold or ear trouble any more?

Write when you have the

promise I will do the best I can
although it won't be much, as little
time as we have to ourselves.

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Love

Owen