

May 2, 1941

Dear Paul -

Received your letter yesterday and thanks very much. I received one from Ray Titton also. Answered his last evening, so this evening I'll answer yours. Bales even wrote me one the other day.

I suppose you've heard of the routine already from my letters home so I don't think there's much use repeating it.

We're still going to school and will continue to do so for 4 more weeks.

I'll give you a tip - if you ever expect to get drafted and try to get into the radio division of the army, learn to copy code and print the letters like

this - A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R

S T U V W X Y Z - I'm having a difficult

time copying and printing 20 WPM.

We're expected to be able to copy 20 WPM perfectly. (Printed)

We aren't learning anything technical about radio at all. Most of the fellows don't know a thing about radio or the code. There are three of us practicing on 20 WPM and about 2 on 15 WPM and 3 on 10 WPM. The rest are still learning the code. (about 90)

We're learning a little about setting up telephones etc. We're going to learn how to talk to airplanes by using panels which are simply strips of white cloth 28" by 12'. These are laid on the ground in certain combinations and the plane flies overhead and reads them.

They're still using a lot of 1918 methods around here.

Don't let anyone kid you about army life, Paul. It costs a lot of money to live in the army, you're confined like a prisoner to the camp grounds. This camp is very large but there is nothing of interest anywhere. You have to pay for your washing and for

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your haircuts besides all other articles that get used up (razor blades, tooth paste etc.).

There is nothing of interest going on around here. I haven't been to Hatterbury yet and I don't believe I will for a long while yet. Two of the boys went the other Saturday and didn't care for it. They charge very high prices there and there's nothing to do anyway.

It's been very hot today. The past couple of weeks it's been actually cold and plenty damp. Today was like a typical hot July or August day at home. The fields get very dusty and when we march the dust rises among us like a smoke screen. It's a sort of clay dust, very fine. It'll be bad if a high wind should come up now.

One of the fellows in this tent worked at Inland as an electrician in plant 1. His name is Joe Westner. Four of us in this tent are Inland men. One is a Youngstown man and the other

comes from Frankfort, Indiana.

I guess that Hammond is on Daylight saving time by now. We are still on standard time here, and it never gets dark until about a quarter of seven.

I think my companions in this tent are really swell fellows. They're very witty and plenty intelligent.

It's getting dark now and we've got to go and see a movie entitled "Demolition Parachute Troops in action". They're really cramming a lot of knowledge into us in a short time. We've had lectures on how to use a gas mask (which we have already), pitch a tent, roll a pack, military courtesy, care of equipment etc.

Time has passed rapidly so far for which I'm thankful. Hope it keeps up.

Well, Paul, guess I better close now.
Sincerely —

John

P.S. **FB** on the committee