

ARMY AIR CORPS

8/1/43

Hi Jim,

How in hell are you anyway? Sorry I couldn't write sooner but I didn't know where you were. I got your letter in Spokane, via Genesee, the same time I got my order. I wired you c/o College Station but I guess you had already shipped. Did you ever get the wire?

Thanks for the \$10 it sure helped a lot on getting me down this way - Texas way I mean. I heartily agree with you in regard to Texas. It sure is a helluva place. Worse yet we are out in the sun all day and there is no relief from the heat at all as we don't have any fans etc. The water here is terrible it is so full of alkali, chlorine and various chemicals to make it fit to drink that it almost isn't - fit to drink I mean. However I don't think I'll have over 3 or 4 more weeks here.

You see, I'm just here for basic training and then I shift some place to college. Boy this Basic Training sure is tough. Did you have to take any of it? We get up at 4:30 and fall out for call - call at 5:00 then we make our beds, shave and G.I. (sweep & mop) the barracks, at 6:20 we go to breakfast, 7:00 we fall out in fatigue clothes, helmet, gas mask & leggings for drill. We drill till about 11:30 then come in for dinner at 12:20. We fall out at 1:00 for P.T. (Physical (Torture) Training) then about 2 or 2:30 we march or take a road run 4 or 5 miles or take on obstacle course. Then we sit down on the ground which is so damned hot you can't sit still - this is to cool off. At 3:30 we come in for a drink of water and boy do we need it. I mean those that are left come in, quite a few pass out and the meat wagon comes after them. At 4 we fall out and march till 5 or 5:30 then come in for chow at 6:20. From then on our time is our own unless we have to G.I. the barracks extra special - this once a week. Also we sometimes have to G.I. the Day room, or the Orderly Room or the Officers barracks or some other special detail. Lights out at 9 and we have to be in our barracks by 11:00.

There are always shows or something to go to - if you are able. Then too we have PX's and Service Club. But you see this field was built for 40,000 and there are now between 65 & 80,000 here. Naturally we are all getting very patient for all you do in the Army is "Hurry Up" and "Wait". We are also getting very good at standing in line for we often have to hit a line for an hour to get a cake or dish of ice cream. We stand in line for everything here. I stand in ranks (sat sometimes) from 8:30, Sat am till 4 p.m. (one hour for dinner) to get my pay (\$20). Don't sound like much to you but it is plenty ok, just the same. Well this is about enough on what we do doncha' think?

They gave each one of us enough stuff to outfit a regiment. But you know what these guys are pretty smart. They have it all figured out and just when, where, why, how, and what for when it comes to using it or for that matter even keeping it in our barracks.

The Army is plenty tough and they work us to beat hell but never-the-less I love it and I wouldn't have anything else as far as I am concerned. They sure believe in making men out of us or else. Learned guys have died here in the past few days just because they couldn't stand it. There were also about four who committed suicide. This is supposed to be one of the toughest camps that there is in the U.S.

Last week I didn't do anything as I had 3 wisdom teeth pulled – a helluva job. It seems when you fly (or if) that they bother you when you get up in the air so – or else.

Well Jim I have a couple more letters to write so I'll sign off for this time. See you some day, some place.

Your Brother,
Bob



Bob Lorang, Top photo
Jim Lorang, Bottom photo