

FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA

20 June 1943
(Sunday)

Dear Sister & Brother,

I got your welcome letter just a few days ago & enjoyed it very much. I am glad to hear all the news. I wish I could be there, too, but since I can't I rely on letters from all of you for news. Just rattle on & on all you want - I enjoy every bit of it.

I have now completed 7 of the 13 weeks of my training here. I had 4 weeks of regular basic & have had 3 weeks of Clerical School. I'll have 5 weeks more of school, then one week more of basic, & then either a furlough or be shipped. I hope & pray that I get the "five days at home" furlough. I may not get it, but I can still dream, hope, & pray.

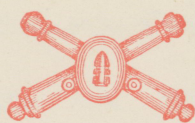
If I do get home I am certainly going to make the best of the five days. It sounds like "five days of heaven" compared with life here, and I don't mean maybe. We are going through the worst part of our training period right now. If the least little thing goes wrong we have to spend the evening scrubbing barracks. Our basic weapons seem to be brooms, mops, scrub brushes, & G.I. soap. Anyway, we all know how to use them.

(over)

I like school very much & am getting very good grades so far. It is getting tough, though. It is work that I am interested in & is a little similar to my work at the office in some respects, so I should be able to get a pretty high grade in the course. The higher the grade the higher non-commissioned officer grade I will be recommended for. A recommendation as a sergeant doesn't mean that the man will be a sergeant when he leaves here. It means that he is qualified & will be in line for the job when there is an opening in his organization. So, I'm going to try my best to get a recommendation of Staff Sergeant, which is the highest the school can recommend.

I went out of camp for the 1st time last Sunday. It was good to get away from camp once but there were almost as many soldiers & sailors in town. All we could do was walk the streets, go to the show, eat ice cream, & drink pop. We went down to the bay & looked at the ships & docks. Also we listened to the splash of the water on the pilings & watched the little boats in the bay.

(next sheet)



FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA

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The whole thing only made me more lonesome for Shirley & Laura. I saw men with their wives & families, and the walk down to the bay only reminded me of the honeymoon & the vacation that Shirley & I spent at the beach. You and Joe don't know how lucky you are that you can be together. A man & his wife were meant to be together, & this Army life is bad enough without longing for someone that is far away.

Of course, I am here to protect my wife & baby & the life I enjoyed, and without memories of them I could not stand this life here. The Army is no picnic.

Well, maybe I can be home to see you shortly after your birthday. I hope & pray that I ^{may} ~~might~~. In the meantime write often & soon as I will be here only 6 weeks more & after July 23 you won't be able to write to me as I might not get the mail before I leave here.

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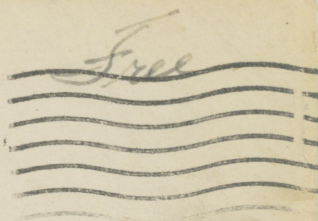
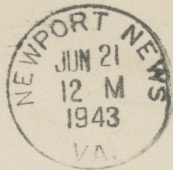
I sent my photographs to Shirley yesterday & there is one for you. I hope that you like it. I was satisfied with the pictures myself. I am sorry that I couldn't get a folder for it but the photo studio were out of them & can't get them until the end of the month. I didn't want to wait that long to send the pictures so I got folders only for the big pictures.

Well, kids, so long for now. May God bless you. I'll be seeing you.

Your loving brother,

Clifton

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