

Jan 1, 44

Dear Mom and Dad:

I'll start the new year off by writing you a letter.

My pen arrived last night along with all the other things and believe me everything was really nice. But had about 15 chances to sell my pen already for it's about the best looking set anyone has ever seen around here.

The candy was real good though I'm afraid that I got a little sick from eating too much of it. I opened my box up and everyone made a dive for it, everything was eaten except the paper so you can imagine how they liked it. I had my sweater on a whole afternoon and it's a little small for me. It weighs 190 pounds; it might just be an imagination though for I haven't had a sweater on in 7 months.

I received a box from Norma Jean, Shelia, Larry, and the kid Thursday. Norma Jean sent me a belt, socks, tie, handkerchiefs and some sweet smelling soap and Shelia and Larry sent me some a good shaving set. My Christmas all came about the same time.

the only thing was that I could  
have asked for was a 15 day furlough  
so that I could have been home with  
you and "Dad!" Which reminds  
me, Dad that so you sent me  
arrived just as I was leaving last  
weekend so it really came in handy.  
They gave us 2 1/2 days off for Xmas  
so the 20 is scattered all over N.Y.  
by now.

I hope Frenny gets his stuff  
before long; if time is still with  
him I imagine that they had a  
pretty good time over the holidays,  
I'm not quite sure where Camp Reynolds  
is but I don't imagine that it's too  
far from here. Don't worry about  
him for he can still be sent some  
other place and I doubt that they would  
send him overseas with his bad leg.  
I'm not sure that Camp Reynolds is  
a P.O.C. station but he probably told  
you all about that.

School is really getting tough  
and about 20% of the boys are flunking  
already. I haven't failed any tests yet  
but there's so darn much of this  
stuff stuff that I haven't had  
that it scares me to think of it.  
Chemistry and Physics are the toughest  
courses for me with Algebra a  
close second. Aside from

schoolwork in the night. I'm a sergeant  
of "B" Company which takes most of  
what little free time I have. There  
are 200 boys in my company and  
my duties are filling out the sick book,  
taking charge of evening study hall,  
making announcements at all formations  
and several other little odd jobs.

I had a letter from Lt. Dawson  
and he plans on seeing me as soon  
as he has the chance. Something went  
wrong the last time and I didn't get  
the telegram until Monday. I guess  
I'll trade him uniforms as he saw  
one of his and see how it is to  
have people saluting me for a change.

Thanks again for everything, I  
feel sort of guilty getting all the things  
that I did for I didn't buy a thing  
for anyone, maybe next Christmas  
I'll have enough money saved up to  
do some Xmas shopping.

If you hear from Grace  
let me know what she has to  
say. I still haven't been able to  
forget her for she was such a  
nice girl. There are hundreds of  
girls around here but they don't  
seem to interest me very much.

I'll try to write more than

week unless you keep us too busy.  
Tell the kids hello for me and thank  
them for my Christmas presents.

Happy New year Mom and Dad,  
I thought up a slogan something  
like the one Eric and Dad used  
to dream up every New year eve -

"Let's end the War in '44", Dad  
probably got a better one but this  
one isn't too bad for a child of 20.

You didn't need a ration stamp  
to buy those wool shoes did you, someone  
tried to tell me they were mittens when  
I put them on last night -

Love

Bob.

P. S. You asked me where we slept  
in one of your letters. There are 11  
of us in my room, we live in  
one of the school buildings. I'll send  
you a postcard with the picture of  
the building on it. It's really nice  
though.

Try to read this writing if you  
can, I'm a little nervous for some  
reason so it's a little shaky.