

Friday Night

Dear Mom:

Hello honey, how are you? I'm at the U.S.O. now and it's crowded as hell, in fact all you see all over town are soldiers and more soldiers.

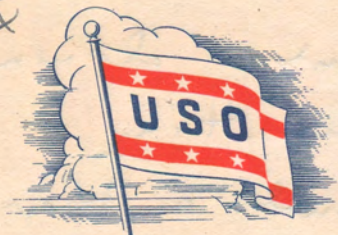
I ate dinner at the Brooklyn Spaghetti House. It was pretty comfy.

This afternoon we stood retreat, that's when they lower the flag. It was very impressive lined up on the huge parade ground were about 15,000 men. We all saluted while the flag was lowered and the band plays the national anthem. Then we

passed in review in front  
of the C.O., who, by  
the way, is now a  
Colonel, General Brady  
having left.

There was one  
quite funny thing about  
the ceremony. The C.O.  
stands about 300 feet  
from the main group,  
consisting of all the  
~~training~~ wing groups in  
camp. He gives his  
orders to the adjutant  
who in turn has to  
give the orders of the  
C.O. to the O.D. who  
is about 200 feet from  
the C.O. But in order  
to do this <sup>(the adjutant)</sup> he has  
to walk to the O.D. (officer  
of the day). He covers that





200 feet in record time but he can't run. It's very comical to see him swooting back and forth between these two men, his gate being quite similar to a man ~~running~~ in a walking race.

I got your package today hon, and thanks alot. That fruit cake will hit the spot after a good workout on the drill field. And that candy is just what I like with the chewy centers. Thanks again, angel.

Mom, when you address my letters don't put the

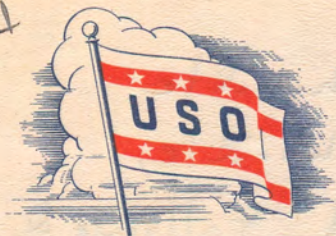
training group number down,  
that is 1176. For one thing  
it's not necessary, and another  
thing I'm in 1177 now.

Jim Koeniger is shopping  
out Sunday, boy is he  
lucky.

I'm learning a hell of  
a lot down here. Yesterday  
I Field stripped a Carbine.  
an automatic rifle that  
fires 15 shots as fast  
as you can pull the trigger.  
It's a sweet piece. (Rifles  
aren't called that here, they're  
pieces.) Next week we'll  
start using the Thompson  
Submachine Gun!

I got a seven page  
letter from Rudy today,  
also one from Charlie,  
and a card from ace





I thrilled to hear that you rented the apartment, sweetheart, and I think ~~so~~ is ~~it~~ a good price. If I'm still here when you go to Texas try and work it so you can stop by and see me on the way.

It's starting get damned cold down here. We had frost this morning, and along with the cold we had to go over the obstacle course right after breakfast.

This course is really terrific. It starts off



with a 3 foot hurdle,  
then a 5 foot hurdle,  
an 8 foot wall, followed  
by a ladder, horizontal  
to the ground which we  
have to hang on to  
and reach across moving  
to winny. Then there is  
a 2 foot hurdle, a  
20 foot ladder we have  
to climb up and over  
and down the other  
side. The next thing we  
meet is a 5 foot  
wall then a bunch of  
logs we have to walk  
over, succeeded by a log  
over a stream that we  
have to cross hand over  
hand. This we call Guadalupe.  
quite a few fellows fall  
in the drink. Then finally

FREE

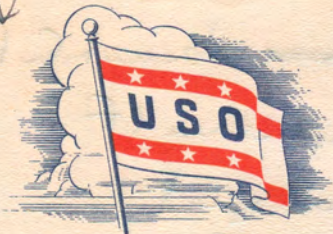


FROM Put Johnson Clark,  
301st Engineering BTL  
Greensboro, N.C.

Mrs. Ruth S. Clark  
64 Chaucery Ave.  
New Rochelle, New York



IV



we come upon a low tunnel ~~we~~ have to crawl through. One fellow went over this course in 2 min and 14 seconds. That's really 'goin' some.

My ~~no!~~ watch broke today so I'll have to have it fixed, for a change. That's all I do to that hairy thing, break it and have it fixed. Did I tell you I got a letter from Nan? Thank her for me.

Well I have to get



back to camp ~~see~~ beautiful,  
so take care of yourself  
and tell Bobby to get  
rid of that cold. I feel  
very flattened that she  
should cry over my letter.  
I really love those two daughters  
of yours, you don't realize it  
until you're far away from  
them. I love you too, darling,  
more than you or anyone  
can ever know. Good night  
sweet heart.

Ludd