March 29, 1943

Dear Members of Bryant Serv. Club,

Received your letter of March 14 a few days ago but waited till tonight to answer it because I'm on C.Q. - have plenty of time in my hands.

Believe it or not I received a package sent by you to me at my reception center at Fort Devens a couple of weeks ago. In the package at one time were two boxes of chocolate covered cherries. Here's the route the package took - from R.D. to Mass. to Miami to Colorado to Utah to (military secret) & a long hard ride over here. Regret to say that contents of package was in pretty bad condition but appreciate your thought & efforts. About sending packages in the future, it is really not practicable in that we can get almost anything at our PX & at very reasonable prices. As far as sweets go we don't stand short. Certainly appreciate hearing from you & would enjoy receiving our paper On The Campus.

I can't say where I am but will tell a little about the place. The majority of people here are colored and referred to as "Niggers." There are a couple of towns
that soldiers when they are flushed have a day off.
The main attraction is the $300 which is a large building containing a ping pong room, pool room, dance floor, lounge and library, and outside horseshoe court and cafeteria. There are also some interesting sights to be seen. The natives' homes are built of clay and straw for the most part. Open drawn carts are a common sight. The natives as a whole wear no shoes. Those that have them seem to prefer not to wear them, in fact I saw a small boy walking barefooted with shoes in his hands. It seems it is compulsory to wear shoes while in a class room. Although fruit is supposed to be plentiful here, I eat less fruit here than I did in states.

The weather is fine and ideal for swimming. Some Sunday nights a convoy takes us to the beach or to on a sightseeing trip. We have a couple of movie houses on the post besides recreation or day room. Sports such as softball and ping pong and volleyball take up a great deal of our free time. It's nothing like the states here but there are places much worse so at present I'm not complaining.

There is a great difference in non-commissioned officers here in comparison to those in the states. They treat us privates a million times better of that without exaggeration.

Sitting those boys who are only getting a year and a half to complete the accounting course. It was a lot of a struggle in two. This always hog wash. Jerry Garber used to say, for one night.

PS (not necessary to send email).

Ernie Pugliese.