

January Eighteen
Fort Wood, Mo.

Dear John,

I got your letter earlier in the week, but this is the first chance I have had to write. Was real glad to hear from you. That was the longest letter I have ever got since I have been in the Army.

I have quite a few letters to write today but I have quite a bit of time to do it in. This other trainee and I are guarding a couple of prisoners today. They were in this company before and had gone AWOL. One was gone six months the other eight. They are waiting to go to the Stockade or something. We just keep them in the supply room. They don't make any trouble, or haven't yet. A couple of day ago one took off on a guard when he let him out to shave. It don't really make

much difference to the Army though or they would have more than us to guard them. I don't give a damn if they take off or not. It's Mickey mouse like the rest of this bullshit.

I haven't had to train since last Wednesday. Thursday I was on KP and I donated blood Friday morning. All blood donors get Friday, Saturday, and Sunday off with post privileges. I took guard duty today though then I won't have any detail for a while. If you play your cards right you can get away with a lot easier duties. I'm not giving up by any means so I'll take all the easy duty I can get.

We had four guys go AWOL out of our platoon this week. one Tuesday, two Thursday, and one Friday. The one who left first was from my old

company, D-4-3. The other guys I didn't know too well, one had been AWOL before though. They will eventually get caught, they always do. They just want out of the Army, if they screw up enough they will get it by dishonorable discharge. By the time they get it though they could probably have served their time. Time in the stockade doesn't count for a damn thing.

The weather here was nice for a couple of days but it turned cold again yesterday. It snowed about an inch or so last night. If it gets too cold the train ~~out~~ in the gym one day last week they stopped all training. It was about 0° ~~but~~ but the wind-chill factor was -15° below. I'm glad I went through basic when I did, we had real good weather compared to now.

We get real good food in our mess hall. We just have a company mess hall, it feeds about 80 everyday. The food is alot better and you get more of it. Some days we get two desserts. There are only two cooks and a mess sargeant. He has it made. There is a spec 5 assigned to the mess hall to but he doesn't cook, does paperwork I guess. KP is easy. The mess hall is only $\frac{2}{3}$ full when everyone is eating. That is alot better than the battalion mess in the old company I was in.

Well, I guess I will close for now. Due to be relieved in a few minutes. Am on 2 hours and off 4 hours for 18 hours. That isn't really too bad I guess. That's all for now,

As always
Gary

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