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Dodge City, Kansas

Dec. 11, 1969

10:30 P. M.

Dear Gary,

I received your most welcome letter yesterday. I'm glad to hear from you. I never pulled C. Q. all the time I was in the service. Then it was a 24 hour stretch, seven in the morning till the next morning. They slept on the job. Set up a cot in the orderly room, for those who did.

If you have quite a bit of time before your training starts again you don't want to lay around and get soft. You want to eat a good well balanced breakfast too. I can't eat fresh pork, or cured pork either so I don't eat a good breakfast, and I am hungry all

the day. I can't eat eggs or any
sour fruit. I can eat pears
though.

Walt told me this morning
that he didn't think Larry would
get a Christmas leave on account
of K. R. that week at Shepherd
field. If you don't want him
to run the wheels off of your
car down there you better get
here and take it yourself. Ha
Ha. Anyway I suppose he
can have one there now,
maybe not. Had to have a
permit in N.W. 2 to have
a car on base, some parked
outside the fence, but it
was kind of risky.

You mentioned going to
the P. X. for supper. Isn't
the grub in the mess hall
any good? We usually had
a better supper than dinner.
Breakfast was usually the

best.

Yent has been in town all week, but I haven't seen him. I would have given him free board and room if he had come over, but I guess he is probably on an expense account. Miriel says he comes through El Dorado pretty often and stops to see them, always at meal time. That is a lot better than not at all. He has a car and was at your folks Monday evening. I could walk up where the exhibit is but I'm not going to. If he doesn't want to come over here he doesn't have to. I'm not going to beg him. He used to go through here several times over the years and never

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did stop to see Mom, only once when he was about 11 years old.

You said it would be getting cold there before long. Do you have overboes or are you issued boots instead? When I was in Alaska we had 2 pairs of G. I. shoes plus 1 each of mukluks (a fur Eskimo boot) shoe paks overshoes and logger boots with hob nails in the soles.

I guess the Army doesn't have many old timers like they used to. When I was in basic at Edgewood Arsenal in C.W. S. some of those old sergeants had been in 35 or 40 years. They had more stripes than a zebra. M. Sgt. stripes, brush marks for each 3 years, over seas bars and what have you on their sleeves. Then a couple

of years later one old cook told me he had more gaurd house time than I had good time, and he proved it. He brought out all his discharges one for each 3 year hitch. On everyone he had one or 2 busts in rank and six months in the G. House, sometimes 2 6 months hitches in the G. H. on one enlistment. All that had to be made up. So on his 8 hitches he had about 4 or 5 years of time that didn't count on his retirement. Did ²⁴ ~~2~~ 9 years for only 24 credit.

Walt seemed to think you might go to Ft. Knox, Ky. next, or was that the orders that were cancelled?

Well I flunked my welding

Test tonight, the last night. The instructor didn't say so but I can tell by looking at my weld. It had pitted holes in it and didn't penetrate through far enough onto the backside of the metal. I was a vertical weld, working up, on $\frac{1}{4}$ inch steel. Jim McGee made a nice looking weld. The instructor is going to test them, then we go back next Monday night to get the results I guess they take samples out of them and ~~for~~ bend them to see where they break, or if they do. I don't think they have a machine to pull them for tensile strength.

So you can see even at the age of 50 I failed, and I'm not discouraged I signed up for next time. So don't you be discouraged either.

I would have failed it ②
sooner but they didn't give us
one sooner. Afraid too many
~~would blink.~~
I failed my P. F. Test when I
was in to. It was after I
had been in for 3 years. We
were supposed to do special
exercises in the evenings. I
was working nights so I
didn't take off to go. I wish
I had.

Mrs Flanagan, next door
south is in bed. She fell a
week ago and clipped a rib,
and it just now started
bothering her. She has a
nurse in the daytime.

Beth and Dorgan were
over Sunday. Went to your
house and picked me up
to go to Gibson's with them
and your folks. I had a
notion not to go. They weren't
even good enough to come
in. Dorgan was grumpy so

a god damned bear, Worse than Fanny. He can kiss my foot. He doesn't owe me a damned thing.

It was a very nice day today, but I'm just wondering how long it will last. We used to have heavy snow before now. The last few falls have been some what this way. It seems we had some good? snow before Christmas last year though.

Walt said he told Larry he would send his civilian clothes to him but I bet they won't fit. He will probably have to buy new ones. He's gained 15 or 20 pounds already. He sure needed it. He was like a tooth pick. Fred was 6'3" and only weighed about 155 but he didn't look as skinny

as Larry, so Larry must not have weighed over 140. I only weighed in a 119. I think they stretched that a awful long ways.

Do you get cut rates when you are on pass or furlough for fares? We did on round trips. I remember once I rode S & I Transportation there and was taking a civilian bus back. I started to get a one way ticket until I found a round trip was cheaper, half fare and no tax on round trips. I see you even have to pay your postager.

Do you still wear a light half wool work sock. We did and I kept going into Penney's and asking for them, until now they have some of them

they are sure a lot more comfortable, summer and winter, but now they are 79¢. Right after the war they were 15¢, one sixth of the price now.

You know I never did qualify on anything. I came within a point or two of it on the revolver. ~~But~~ But close only counts in horseshoes. I think only 1 or 2 in our company of 240 even made expert. After I came back from Alaska we fired the M-1 carbines. I saw no one checked our ammo, and a lot of them who wanted to qualify took extra ammo. They only counted the 10 best on the target, because we fired that many from each position, standing, kneeling, sitting, prone and standing

to prone, 5 positions.

Well I'm getting awful tired I guess I better go to bed. Write when you can I'll see you

Joker

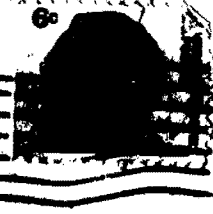
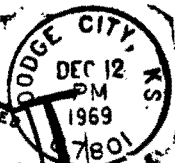
P.S. No wonder I'm so sleepy. Its 12:30 already.

Put your uniform on and come over when you get home and I might take your picture. Why don't you get a camera and have some fun with it. Your folks sent Harry money to buy one. You should tell them you want one for Christmas.

I was also going to tell you about the go-go ~~the~~ gal at Trail St. She weighed 320. She's gone now, and a skinny one is there. I wasn't down

there but a lot of gump at
welding school go there. Pete
Falcous brother in law runs it,
Levy is his name John.

JOHN NOLLER



329/28

PVT, GARY L. NOLLER

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