

FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA

May 9, 1943
(Sunday)

Dear Sister & Brother,

This is the first opportunity I have had to write to you. We are busy from 5:00 in the morning until 8:00 at night & the lights go out at 9:30 pm.

A typical day would be to get up at 5:10 am to dress, wash, & tear up the bed to fold it up neatly. Then we all sweep, scrub, & mop the barrack floor & move the beds & foot lockers back in line. Then we eat chow. After chow we have drill, rifle drill, lectures, calisthenics (some times we have calisthenics in the morning - usually in the afternoon), Chow again, more foot drill, classes, calisthenics, & hikes. While we are here we have hikes ranging from $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to 30 miles.

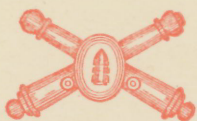
After 13 weeks of training we are supposed to be sent across as Fort Eustis is an Anti-Aircraft Replacement Training Center. I have now completed one of the thirteen weeks of basic training. It doesn't seem so bad now looking back on it but each day was an ordeal at the time. I have time to write to Shirley nearly every night, but I don't have time for other letters except on Sunday. If I should draw K.P., Table Waiter, Charge of Quarters, or some other detail for Sunday, I wouldn't have time to write even then. Also, on Sunday I sleep late to catch up on
(over)

my sleep & relax. This morning I slept until 7:00 am. The extra two hours sleep was sure nice. I go to church in the morning & in the afternoon is my only chance to go to a show without missing sleep at night. I decided that I would write some letters this afternoon instead of going to the show. Otherwise I wouldn't ever get all my letters written.

I had a nice train ride to get here & was in charge of three other men. We travelled four days on the train - we slept in Pullmans as far as Chicago. From Chicago to Indianapolis we had to ride in a chair car & from there on to Lee Hall, Virginia we had a private drawing-room with Pullman berths - pretty nice.

It is terribly hot & dry here & they say it gets hotter & hotter as summer comes on. We perspire from marching & then we are so dry & thirsty that we have to drink the water even though it is terrible. It has too many minerals & too much salt in it. We are only about 17 or 18 miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

I was never so successively tired every night as I have been here. I am tired every night - but I'm not alone. One day I drew K.P. & that is really tiring - work from 4:30 am to 7:00 pm steady except for time to eat & then have to go to barracks & shower, shave, shine shoes, clean rifle, clean bayonet, & make up the bed just the same as on any other day. (next sheet)



FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA

I am really not making ⁻³⁻excuses for not writing, but am giving you an idea of why it is not possible for me to write too often. However, you can find time to write to me I know & I'll be very disappointed if you don't. After all I'll only be here 12 weeks more & then ????

I will really appreciate hearing from you & I believe Shirley will let you read the letters that I write to her, or at least some of them, because I intend them to be to all of the family as well.

However, I will try to answer any letters that you write to me even if only a card.

I am being toughened up so that I can stand the hard grind of battle & I may not see you again for many months, but rest assured I am doing my share in all of the work we are given to do. There are always a few "gold bricks" wherever one goes that will not do their share, but by gosh I certainly will try & have been able to so far to do at least my share.

Well, write soon. (I haven't received any mail from home yet as I am so far away.)

Lots of love,

Clifton

Pvt. Clifton S. Gallup
Battery D- 1st Battalion
2nd Platoon
Fort Eustis, Virginia



Mr. & Mrs. Johannes Van Straten
839 High St.
Redlands, California