

FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA

May 16, 1943
(Sunday)

Dear Sister & Brother,

I have now completed two weeks of my thirteen weeks of training. Although I miss you all at home very much I have become more or less adjusted to the army way of life & really do like it ok. The only thing I don't like about the whole thing is that I can't go home on leave to see my family. I believe that the army way of life will be good for me - regular hours, regular meals, regular sleep, regular time for trips to the latrine, regular exercise, strenuous calisthenics, long marches, drill, and constant watch over ones posture - I'll probably be a different man when I come home. One thing you can be sure of is that your big brother will be a man when he comes back from this War. I won't be the same kid that went away. It just doesn't work that way. I won't be changed for the worse.

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though. The army doesn't make all men go bad or drive them to drink. There are a lot of good clean men in the army the same as there are on the outside - or should I say "were on the outside." There aren't a lot of men left on the outside. Incidentally, there are very few women where I am.

The army gives a man a sense of responsibility that he never had before.

He is on his own & is equal to any other man in his platoon. The other man may have been richer or poorer, he may have been a store manager or a truck driver or a college student, but here they are all the same - soldiers in training.

They all have to do the same things, eat the same food, sleep in the same kind of beds. There are no innerspring mattresses nor down comforter quilts here. Of course, some of the men will spend their time on extra details (extra duty) for not keeping things strictly G.I. & others will advance in the ranks for superior work or better knowledge of what is taught.

(next sheet)



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Time only can tell what will happen to a lot of the men here. A few of them (a very few) will probably never amount to anything, but they would have been even worse off on the outside. I believe that every man that has military training will benefit from it. Some will gain more than others - but one can only expect to receive in return in accordance to what effort he puts forth.

I would like to hear from you. I haven't had a letter from you at all & I know that you have a lot more time to write than I do. I never knew what it could be to be so busy until now.

I love my sister & brother & would like to hear from them once in a while possibly more often & regularly. I am kept in contact with you at home only by letters - it has been almost a
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month since I left home & I like to know that you are still there, well, & what you are doing. I want to hear all the news, however unimportant it may seem. What may seem like only some unimportant item may be real news to me. For instance, I would like to know how your chickens are, etc.

I like to just sit down & rattle on and on in a letter & "no say nothing" as it brings me closer to you. Reading a letter from you would also help, so please write Sister.

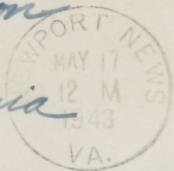
You're the only sister I had before I got married - now I have a little sister, but don't tell Rosemary that I called her little sister - & I think you're tops. Don't let me down.

Your loving brother,

Clifton

FROM

Pvt. Clifton S. Gallup
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Free

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