

April 25, 1943

Dear Mother and Dad,

We got on the train last nite at 8:30. They are the old type Pullman's with an upper + lower berth, which fold up. The lower folding back into seats. There are three of us to two ~~berths~~ berths. Two in the lower and one in the upper. A little crowded but good enough.

We just ate breakfast (7:30 AM) and folded the beds. We get up at 6 AM. We are now speeding through Georgia at a pretty fast clip.

I don't ~~where~~ know where we are going. In fact no one knows and those who do will not tell us anyway.

2. About 25 min. before leaving the apt. we had mail call and I got a letter from Charlie.

(9:45) We just passed Fargo, Ga. Its pretty cloudy and it looks like rain.

On the first Passover nite all the Jewish boys were invited to attend a dinner at one of the mess halls. The food was supplied by the Jewish welfare. The Jewish Chaplain went through the whole ceremony. There was a major + a colonel at the ceremony and the col. gave a speech.

For ^{the} dinner we had baked fish potato kugel, borscht + potatoes, wine etc. It was very nice. We also had ^{and of course} matzos to read from.

3) That day when I was going to take the pictures I went to see if Nat would go along with me, because I knew he wanted to have pictures made also. But I found out that he was on shipment so I didn't take the pictures.

I think its better that I didn't because I was put on shipment Wed. and we can't leave our apt. telephone, or write. I managed to get that other one mailed to you. So we just stayed around until Sat. afternoon they told us to get ready to leave.

I think I told you once before that I paid a dollar a piece for thoes pillow cases.

4) I never did get around to mail Aunt Anna a little gift. I'll get her something later.

I'll try to get Lillian that pin with 2 stars also.

Yes, you did give me Uncle Sam's address.

My feet are in good condition now. With all that marching + drilling it either makes or breaks your feet. At first I had blisters on my feet because of my new shoes, but they broke in soon.

I washed out my fatigues + my socks + underwear. My class A's (cum tons) I sent to the laundry. We pay individually for each piece of clothing. A set of class A's washed + ironed cost's 22¢ - handkerchiefs cost 2¢ each, although I think

5) I could have done a better job myself on the Hankies. When they came back from the laundry they were nicely pressed but they still had half the dirt on them.

I don't know exactly how tall I am but it seems that I'm growing because of all that exercise in the fresh air + sunshine. ~~and~~ And still I gained weight so I must be growing.

9:30 - just passed Haylow, Ga. and the sun is shining now. So far all I've seen in Ga are old shacks and farms and swamps.

10:00 - Stopped here in Valdosta, Ga

10:30 - We are now leaving ^{it} and the sun is getting pretty hot.

I've seen very few white people along this line - mostly darkies.

6) 1:40 PM

Just left Asburn, Ga after a 15 minute stop there and we just finished eating lunch. We had spare ribs, sauerkraut, pickles, an apple + bread. We use paper cups + plates. We use our own spoons, knives + forks from our mess kits.

It looks as though we are heading North west, probably Chicago or maybe Colorado, or South Dakota. The places I mentioned have radio schools situated there.

I'll mail this letter when we reach our destination but of course I'll also send a telegram which you will ~~not~~ get before this letter. The train just stopped at Arabi, Ga. We make so many stops at all the pick-water towns, you would think this

It was a freight ~~or~~ train instead of a troop train. Oh what the hell - it beats walking.

1:20 PM. Train just stopped at Nesbitt Ga. Most of these little towns aren't even listed on the map.

5:25 PM. We stopped and I awakened from a rest less sleep. The sun sure is hot and radiates ~~so~~ heat right through the shade. Don't know why we stopped. There's no town here, the engineer must have got some kind of stop signal.

I shaved with my electric razor a few minutes ago. There are electric outlets in the washroom. I took a pretty good shave after not using the razor for a long time.

We should be eating chow soon. I'm pretty hungry.

7:45 PM Have just finished chow and I'm on guard duty now for

8) 1 hour at one end of the car. We are now entering Atlanta, Ga. It's the first large city along this line since we started.

On the guard duty post, I'm to allow no one on or off the car.

8:15 PM Have been relieved from guard duty and we are ~~not~~ starting to leave Atlanta.

Oh! My bunk mate + I were just told that we have K.P. tonight and here we go. I shall be back again later.

April 26
Good Morning! (or is it)

I went to bed 12:30 last nite after pushing a mop around and cutting slices of beef.

By my watch we got up 5 AM this morning but we have ^{to} move it back one hour so it's really 4 AM, now.

9) While in the mess car I noticed a city all lit up and the cook told me that it was Chattanooga, Tenn. We are still racing through Tenn and we should be in Kentucky soon. I heard a rumor that we are going to Scott Field, Illinois.

It was pretty chilly last nite and it seems to get colder as we go north-west. Good bye to the sunshine of Florida.

We should be having chow soon

6 AM - Central Mountain Time (finished chow)

We are going through the Cumberland mountains of Kentucky. We just stopped at a little town called Somerset, Ky.

8:AM We are now leaving Danville, Ky. Where we go next - only time will tell.

10) We can see miles + miles of farm land
pigs, cattle, etc. It's cloudy today but
everything still looks beautiful. Kentucky
is much nicer looking than Georgia.
All we saw in Ga were shacks
and swamps.

~~12:00~~ 12:00 AM Central Standard Time

Stopped in Louisville, Ky. Not
a bad looking town. We just finished
eating Chow. Beef, ^{potatoes} ~~potatoes~~, peaches, beets
corn + bread. It's the beef that I sliced
last nite and it tastes pretty good.
I did ~~so~~ some pretty good slicing, if
I may say so myself. I'll bet you
can't even get beef back home. The
army gets the best of everything you know.

A kid just came around selling
ice-cream and we bought some. It
tasted more like ices but it was
a change.

11) We are about to leave Louisville
12:30) and we're just told to put all
windows down because we are
going to go through tunnels. The
train has just started to move.

We are now passing over the
Ohio River and into Indiana.

We just went through a tunnel
and there was so much smoke in the
car that I put my gas mask on.

We've been told that our gas mask
is the best friend we have while
in the army and it came in handy
going through that tunnel.

It's pretty warm now especially
with most of the windows down.
Just opened my window and it's getting
nice + breezy.

It looks as though we are
heading for Scott Field, Ill.

12) 5:00 PM -

Stopped at ~~B~~ Princeton, Indiana
for about 20 minutes where some
girls from the USO here gave out
some cigarettes and cookies. Nice
people out here.

5:40 PM Just went over the Wabash
River and have entered the state
of Illinois. It shouldn't be long
now ~~to~~ before we get to our destination.
I'm pretty sure it's Scott Field, Ill.

7:45 We are getting close to our
destination. We are still in Ill.
and Scott Field must be the place.
I just got my barrock bags back.
I had them stored in the ladies'
wash room. I hear that we
will arrive in about 2 more
hours.

13) 8:20 PM

Just pulled into Centralia, Ill. It
shouldn't be long now.

April 27 8:15 AM Scott Field Barracks

Pulled into Scott Field last night
at 9:30 P.M. We had to stand around
until 12:30 when we finally got to
sleep. We now sleep in barracks.
Scott Field is a pretty big place
as far as I see it.

We have to stay in our barracks
for the first week. Centrailia is the
nearest town.

My address is:

Pvt. J. Kramer

A.S.N. 32814859

12th Technical School Sqd.

Scott Field, Ill.

14) I'll have to wait until after 4:30
pm before I can send you a telegram.

The trip took us 50 hours.

We are situated ~~just~~ just about
in the center of the country.

I think I'm further away from
home than in Fla. It's about
1500 miles from here to N.Y.

Save this letter for future
reference. It's more a ~~less~~
a diary of my trip.

Love,
Gromy