

4/20/42



13TH COAST ARTILLERY
FORT BARRANCAS, FLORIDA

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Dear Sam - Carl.

Sorry I didn't write ~~you~~ but I have been kind of busy for the past week, and I haven't had much chance to write. How are you Carl and Arthur? What is new back in the city? How are all the Harlings?

Sam don't tell Pop or anyone anything about this, but, there have been quite a few latrine rumors going around, that we may be shipped up north after eight weeks. There are two ^{C.A.} new camps opening in Maine and New Hampshire, and the talk is that we will be sent up there. How true these stories are I don't know but they have been going around, and I sure have my fingers crossed. Not that this is a bad place down here. I don't think I ever told you what this place is like? Well it is situated right on Barrancas beach right off the Gulf of Mexico. Our barracks are about one hundred yards off the beach. It looks like one of the smart hotels in Long Beach until you get

into the place. It is divided off into large dormitories which hold about 50 men apiece. The halls are all Indian and they are waxed every week. The place gets painted every few months. We have two tennis courts, a bathing beach, and a baseball diamond that will put many semipro diamonds to shame. The fort supplies all equipment. There is a large grandstand that holds about three hundred men, and a boxing ring. The

Pennicula air base is right out of our main gate. But the best part of this place is the food. This is what we had today. This is just a sample. I forgot most of the side dishes.

Breakfast - An apple - Bacon and eggs - French fries - Cereal - a bottle of milk - coffee and Toast

Lunch - Veal cutlets - Corded yams - string beans ^{of spaghetti} - carrots and peas. bread and butter - Sweet tea - Cake - Ice cream (It isn't very often that we get both)

Dinner - Fries - Sauerkraut - beans - bread and butter.

The way I am writing this it don't seem like much, but you can have as much as you want - I had 3 veal cutlets. We only reserve 125 men and they eat up 40 loaves of bread per meal. I have already gained 8 lbs. and my face is really round. I haven't any more high cheek bones.



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besides all that every table has a jar of jam, sweet pickles, ketchup, chili sauce and mustard. I am if I don't get fat now I never will.

That was the good part, now let me show you how they take it off. Every other day we go across the bay and work on the twelve inches. I haven't got a hard job physically. I am in the range section. I don't have to even look at the guns. I work either in the plotting room or in one of the observation towers. In the observation towers we track down boats and call in the asmiths to the plotting room where they track down the target on the plotting board, then they also make the wind correction, range correction, and you work on about seven different boards before you can have the gun fired. All this has to be done in twenty seconds. There are about twenty men working all this and boy you have to know everyone of these positions.

Last week we went on a hike, 7 miles, full pack. Tomorrow we go on a longer one, and this country is all

And woods. In between this we have lectures and we have drill for foot troops. After six o'clock we are through. We can't go into town but we have a service club with two ping pong tables, a radio, photographs, piano desks, and a dance floor and a few hostesses. Also there is a small bowling alley on the post, four alleys. and a pool room.



That is about all for this place and for me. How is Arthur? and the future one? Write soon I receive very little mail. To date I have received four letters from Friday, two from Jean. and none from any of my so called friends. Make it's because I didn't write to them eh? I don't know any of their addresses though and if you see any of them let them know where I am.

That's all, Regards and Love

Harry

P.S. We are swimming already. It was over 70° the other day.

Love to Arthur

Harry