



1ST COAST ARTILLERY
FORT SHERMAN
CANAL ZONE

Box 83

Aug. 14, 1938

Dear Mama,

It has been about three weeks or more since I received your letter but I didn't intend waiting so long to answer. I get disgusted once in a while and don't feel like writing. I sure will be glad to get aboard the transport and start back towards home. I am "supposed" to leave Nov 2. and that's not very long - I may get home for Thanksgiving. - Richard is going back on the August 27th boat. at least that's what he told me on the phone today. I think he is going to be assigned to a new outfit in the States. He hasn't been getting along so well down here. He is about the best radio operator they have at Fort Bellesseps but he doesn't care very much about the work as the corporals and sgt's. he works under doesn't know as much about handling traffic as he does. of course he doesn't
(over)

raise any arguments but he couldn't get along with fellows trying to tell him how to do something when they didn't know as much about it as he did. so they transferred him from the post radio station to straight duty. about all he has to do now is go out with details with field radio equipment about 3 times a week, do guard duty once a month and maybe he is detailed as "room orderly" about twice a month. outside of that he doesn't have anything to do. He sure is glad to be leaving here though.

I guess Russell enjoyed the two weeks at Ft. Oglethorpe more than likely he picked up a little army lingo. ask him if he knows what a "slum burner" is.. (cook) what do they do to a guy in canteen if he "short stops" some body down here every body says "side arms" for milk and sugar, "eye water" for coffee etc.

Well I guess this years school has a pretty good start by now. - Is Mildred still there. - I havnt answered her letter yet. - and I owe Alice a letter also - It will probably



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take a week or more to catch up with all my correspondence. I have about 25 or 30 qsl cards to mail..

I guess you read something in the papers abt Roosevelt's passing thru here. he traveled across the Isthmus by rail and got aboard the Houston again at Gatun locks.

I was up all nite last nite working the rig as I'm in a "dx" contest. Trying to work as many European stations as possible. It takes place every week-end this month. Last week I worked 14 Europeans but this week-end I only worked 7. - It is 11 PM now so will have to close and hit the hay pile. Hope everybody is well.

Love to all.

John