

Hq. 2nd Bm
331st Engrs (GS)
Engr. Org. Can.



CAMP CLAIBORNE
LOUISIANA

June 14, 1942
Sunday Afternoon

Dear Bernice -

I sure enjoyed your letter - I guess you're glad to get home. I think I left your letter on the officers table at headquarters. I've been working down there today, but the officers of this battalion are having a ^{confidential} meeting down there right now. I'll get it after a while, and if I've omitted anything I'll write you again. It's free, and I have lots of time for this since I went to work here.

This battalion (3 companies) are going out of camp about 25 miles this week to work on an army railroad. They're gonna ballast some track already down. I'm not sure yet but I think I stay here. I kinda hope I do because they're going to stay a week and sleep in pup tents.

We're really getting scattered, aren't we? One went home, but another went

farther away. I hope Dorothy likes it in Washington. It's pretty straight dope here now that this regiment is going to Alaska. I think I'll kinda enjoy it. I've always wanted to see that country. I suppose we'll build fortifications or maybe an airport. Some thought we might work on the Alaska to South America highway, but I don't think we will. They can get civilian labor for that.

At the rate we're moving, we'll be represented in all four corners pretty soon. Dorothy in Wash., Johnny in Florida, and I in Alaska. You might send Caroline to southern California for her health.

I was promoted to put. 1st Class a couple of days ago. Some rating, eh? Maybe I can get another later on. I don't even get a P.C.'s pay until I have had 4 months service.

I am enclosing an emergency relief blank that Mama can use in case of emergency. She is supposed to be dependent on me before help can be obtained, but I thought it would be all right to send her one anyway. You never know what may happen. I have \$5,000 worth of insurance payable to her too.



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I notice a lot of fellows here wearing 1st class Pvt. stripes - I'd just as soon have a red ribbon in my hair. You have to buy your own stripes anyway, and I'm sure not gonna do that.

How long did Uncle Henry stay with you - or is he still there? I bet he liked it there all right.

Thanks for the picture and the programs. You should have been the queen. I think I could have found you without the X-mark. Do you have more girls than boys in school? I should think so myself. The boys either have jobs or they're in the service.

It's a good thing you're learning to drive - chauffeurs are kinda "shy" around there now. Be sure the car is greased regularly. Dad is away most of the time. It's up to you and Jewell to see that the car is cared for.

The 330th regiment is gonna parade with a band at 3:30 on account of this being Flag Day. I have to stick around here, though, the parade is in another area.

That's the news from here - complete
and uncensored. Well, uncensored anyway.

Write me again when you can. I
realize a farmers' daughter is pretty
busy, but maybe you can write a few
lines every night after you finish milking.

Hoping everybody is O.K.

Love,
Bill