



UNITED STATES ARMY
CAMP CLAIBORNE, LA.

August 6, 1942.

Dear Bernice--

Thanks a lot for the pictures. I understand now why nobody had written to me--if I had the mountains, the river, and the horses I wouldn't spend much time writing letters either. And oh yes, I forgot the corn, the taters, and the beans--I guess they take up some of the time--Mamas' time anyway. (Don't get mad now!)

Sorry I can't type any better--I should write but I'm lazy and tired right now. I've been working all day long right here at this typewriter, and it sure gets tiresome.

From the way you wrote, you all really took me serious on that "military" letter I wrote last wrrk--now look at that! Did Dorothy tell you all about Tessie? She copied it out of the Readers' Digest and sent it to me. Tessie is a typewriter without the letter "r" on it. It ended up something like this. "The moe I wite the wose it looks." It was positively goofy--but pretty clever. I guess mine will look even more goofy than that before I finish--so watch out.

Just for the fun of it, see if you can get any sense out of this--Pvt Scott trfd fr Hq 2nd Bn to Co D 331st Engrs per SO 42 Hq 331st Engrs Cp Claiborne La Dtd Aug 4 42. That is the way I typed my "change" on the "303" this morning. And that is the kind of stuff I do all day. It means that I was transferred from 2nd Battalion headquarters to company D by special order number 42. The special ^{ORDER} originated at 331st Engineers headquarters on the 4th day of August 1942. The "303" is a form--a report of change. Every time the status of an individual is changed in any way, we make a "303" and send it to the Maching Records Unit in Alexandria. Every post has one. I don't know much about the unit, but they report to higher headquarters. The system has not been used very long.

On August 4 a special order came out promoting 43 men in my company--that meant 43 "303's", 43 certificates of promotion, 43 entries in service records, reshuffling of records according to rank, and the typing of a new roster. On top of that, 7 men were transferred yesterday, and that is a lot of paper work for a company clerk too, so you can see I'm a busy man. I'm going to do some work tonight as soon as I get done with my correspondence.

Have you heard from Johnny anymore? The last time I heard from him he was expecting to leave pretty soon. I just answered his letter day before yesterday.



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That was a good picture of Bob and Blanche--all the pictures were good. I especially like the scenes of the river. That one of Jewell and Alice on the porch with Bob and Blanche was extra plain, though.

Dan looks good--how about Prince? I bet you were so ashamed of him you wouldn't have one made on him--or is he just too "hard" to ride. I don't blame you--I think Dan is the best horse too. Shorten the stirrups next time. I'm gonna send you all some pictures of me with a pack on in a few days--then you can laugh at me. In the first place my clothes look kinda funny. My shirt sleeves are too long, and my pack is incomplete--the top of it is flat, while it should be even with the top of my shoulders and have a mess kit in it. My gas mask and rifle are ok, but the rifle should have a bayonet on it--some day I'll borrow a "blade" and have my picture made.

Well, I've written Caroline and you--now I must write Dorothy one, and tell her how much I enjoyed reading about Tessie. I've been reading the Digest, but I hadn't read that one.

8 Darn! I cut a big long stencil the other day without making a single error, and now I can't even write a short letter. Maybe it's because I can type better from copy than I can from my head. Are you learning to type--you could you know, with the typewriter at your disposal.

I tink I quit--the moe I wite the wose it looks.

Love to all,

P.S. Oh yes I was one of the 43--you may call me "Cepoal" now if you wish. I wrote to Mildred Smith about two weeks ago, and haven't heard from her--maybe her address is changed--do you still hear from her?