

Camp Ward
November 21, 1942

Dear Mother,

I heard from my test, the first one that I took, yesterday. I didn't make [sic] so very good. I have taken another test though, an ordanance [sic] test. I [sic] wasn't very hard.

This morning I went on the rifle range and fired live ammunition for the first time since I have been here. I made a score of about 145 not official yet. The perfect score is 150.

Yesterday morning we had a field day and then we had barracks bunk and personal inspection. [page 2] There were seven Gold Braids, commissioned officers that came by and inspected and asked us questions. You don't move your eyes even when they are inspecting.

In the afternoon we went down to the boats again. On the way to the boats we have to go through some of the nastiest [sic] mud I have ever seen. It is about three two miles down to the lake.

Last night we had to march up to the receiving unit about three miles from here and have a blood test taken and ~~and~~ an X ray picture made. The receiving unit was the place where I stayed all night the first night [page 3] that I was here. We went on the double up there. When we came back on the truck we were singing. A Gold Braid said we were making too much noise and we had to start marchin [sic] then 8:30. We marched and what I mean marched until 10:10.

This morning we were out on the grinder taking our morning exercise. The duty officer stoped [sic] us and asked us what company we were and where the rest of it was. The rest were cleaning up the barracks. He made all of them come out and run. They are sure after us. That and last night was the first time that anything very much had been said about our company. They got Co. 11 out of bed [page 4] last night and made them clean up the wash house.

We are going to have our watch stripes sewed on our uniforms Tuesday. We were suppose [sic] to graduate Tuesday but now it has been put off until about the first of December.

If I do get a leave maybe I will get to be home for Christmas or in the christmas holidays. This would be a good time.

I didn't get any mail yesterday. We haven't had a mail call this morning. I hope to get a lot of mail when we do.

[page 5] The last two or three days have been pretty fair weather. We have seen the sun part of the time. There is no snow around the barracks but you can still see the pretty mountains covered [sic] with it.

This afternoon we have a lecture. Then we have rifle company and then we have another swimming test. I do not know what the test will be, but I know that the company that has the least to fail the test will get a special liberty. No person can graduate that can't swim [page 6] at least 75 yards. I have passed that test all ready.

Several companies that came in after we did have graduated. I don't think that there were so very many of them that have gone home on a leave. In one company there was only four that got leave.

Have you been to El Paso in the last few days? How is Daddy and Betty? Is Aunt Annie and Granpa [sic] feeling well. [sic] I think that I will get a letter from Jackie about today.

Your son,
Tom D