

Camp Ward  
October 24, 1942

Dear Mother,

I received your letter and the school paper yesterday. Thanks for the air mail envelope. I will use it this time. I have not received the package you sent the 10th. Unless it was the one that had the needles in it, but may be I will at the 4 o'clock mail call this evening. Will not send this letter until after then [sic].

This morning we had captian's [sic] inspection of the Barracks beds and everything. I passed all right. After Inspection we had a lecture and then practiced on the semaphore code some more. After dinner we were suppose [sic] to go swimming, but we didn't. We got paid ten dollar [sic]. Just before we got paid we had a lecture about our liberty tomorrow.

[page 2] We have just finished coming back from the comando [sic] trail. There are ten foot walls to go over, blind holes, tunnels to crawl through, fences to go over, ropes to go through, Sea bags [sic] filled with sand ~~tight~~ tied close together to run through, poles to walk across and every thing [sic] like that.

I wrote Daddy and Betty last night.

Yesterday we had a swimming test. I swam the 75 yards easily. I didn't much like to jump off of the ten foot diving board with my arms locked around my chest [page 3] because you can not keep your balance so well. From the top of the board it looks like you have to jump twenty feet because the water is so clear that you see the bottom of the pool. After the test we had [illegible] diving and swimming for about thirty minutes.

Last night I stayed at the Barracks and washed my clothes and wrote letters. I went to bed about fifteen minutes after eight. We have to get up at five o'clock almost every morning. We take exercises before breakfast.

How is everybody and everything going in Blanca. [sic] I sure did like the school paper. I read every bit of it.

It will cost a little over two dollars to go to Spokane and back.

Tonight is our show night, but I don't know whether I am going or not.

(later) I didn't. Neither did we play ball.

I went to ship service and bought me a blue Jacket manuel [sic].

[page 4] I received the letter that mailed the 19th by straight mail today. It had two air mail envelopes and stamps in it. Iva Mae and Uncle Elis wrote to me today. They said they liked it there. Walter sure does like the picture of captian [sic] that you sent him. He has been horse back [sic] riding once.

There is not a chaplin [sic] here now but there will be soon. I do not know whether I will write to you Sunday or not.

I would have guessed that Betty had more pennies than she did. I still haven't received the package.

Your Son,  
Tom D