

Nov. 7, 1944  
somewhere in the west.

Dear Folks:

Will take a few minutes today and try to tell you some of the things you will want to know. We had a remarkably fine trip across the country... the mountains were very beautiful, as were the wide stretches of open cattle country. Its a marvelous experience to see America from one end to the other, hand running. Our train accomodations mere very fine and the lady in charge of our girls is Mrs. La Gorce, wife of the Associate Editor of the National Geographic... so you can see we have been in good hands. They are friends of Senator and Mrs. Vandenburgh... so when you get time please drop the Senator a line end tell him that I had the pleasure of crossing the country with his friend Mrs. La Gorce. It may be helpful to me later should I obtain material for the Geographic. Cannot tell you many in our party, but it is a cheerful lot... the girls are like a crowd going off to college. Hate to think how they may feel a few months from now.

We are stationed in a very beautiful camp, studded with pine trees makes me think of the territory around Traverse Bay... I just received your letter this morning telling me of going to Old Mission for apples... It followed me to Ft. Dix and then here. Our food on the train was exceptionally fine.. wish we could have had the same cook all the way. Our food here at the office's mess is very good, however, for example this noon we had soup (lot of meat in it) steak, mashed notatoes, creamed onions, cottage cheese and pineapple, bread, butter (plenty) coffee, cake... good taste and excellent quality... price 35 cents.

This morning we went down to get our GI issue... helmet, gas mask, mess kit, etc. etc. etc.... evervthing from flea powder to insect repellent. Sure will have a lot of stuff to carry when we finally board ship. You should, see me in a steel helmet.

By the way, in writing.. write ON ONE SIDE OF PAPER ONLY, so if the censor should ever want to cut anything out, they can do it without detroying something on the other side.

This evening Mrs. La. Gorce has invited all of us to a room in her hotel in the city that is nearby to listen to the election returns. Last evening we went to town and got cleaned up at one of the local Service Clubs... good showers, lots of hot water and soap. Sure did feel wonderful after several days and nights in that Pullman car. You can't imagine how we appreciate having things like that available.

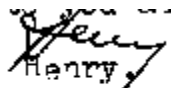
Have found I can take my typewriter with me... and have already written a couple of articles I picked up on the trip here. One was about an incident in Italy, and the other about a local farm co-operative movement in one of the States we came through. They will appear in Refrigeration News.

Here in camp we live in army barracks for casual (visiting) officers... plain military buildings heated by pot bellied stoves. We wash (etc. ) across the street. Today I heve been doing my washing, but have not yet tackled a wool shirt. Will try and get one of the girls to iron my shirt.

Yesterday I received my orders (destination deleted) and my commission with the assimilative rank of Captain in the U. S. Army. Some thrill to that one, believe me.

Must hike along now and get another batch of shots. I am asking Katherine to send you many of my letters.. as I will not have time to write all of you every few days, particularly after I get to work, and it just means repeating the same things over and over. So you might send my letters to you on to her . Hopes this is not too long in reaching you.. and that it finds you all well. Sorry to hear about Earl McNitt and Mr. Torrey, they were both a couple of fine citizens.

Love to you all,

  
Henry.