



CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

[9/20/43]

Dear "Boss" Sunday Night.

I just came off of K.P. It had to come just when I wanted a day off to catch up with all of my mail. I am so anxious to get started on my mail that I didn't even take time to use Jergen's Lotion on my hands which surely need it.

I really believe that I have been assigned to every kind of detail work from Patrol Duty to grass cutting. Don't get me wrong, I didn't do anything to deserve it, but I just happen to be in the Army. In fact, some of the boys were just sitting around resting to-day, and they were assigned to various detail work. When one does have a gay off, it is best to scream away from the company area and go to the Service Club.

This is a new camp, but a lousy one. It is a real Mississippi mud hole. There isn't a decent town

within a 60 mile radius. The nearby jerk-water towns are tough places and we have been warned about them.

We are all in the 63rd Division which is just taking shape. In fact it is the only division of its kind, for it will have its own infantry, air corp, medical corps, etc; it will be a self-sustaining combat team. And that is just what we will be trained for - Combat. The officers and noncoms are a tough lot, and some of them are still fighting the civil war. Our C.O. is a lawyer also, and I had a talk with him one night in the Latrine. By the way, the Latrine is really our true social club. We often walk over there (about 1 block from our barracks) after lights go out at 9 P.M. and catch up on our personal needs and writing. One gets wind of everything there. Each company here has its own movies, service club, and other facilities.

We just moved to a new area and have to walk about a mile to a PX or movie. So all in all, we simply have no connection here with civilian life.



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I met Morris Cohen last night as I was coming out of the barber shop sporting my first G. I. Yes, it did go to my head.

Seriously though I am trying my best here. So far I have made a 100 on every written exam. We get plenty of lectures now. And I feel ok, too (damn it)

I believe that all of the Jewish boys will be allowed off for the holidays providing we leave the area.

Thanks for the enclosure about O.C.S for Lawyers. I'll have to pass my basic first. That is very tough here, as we will be trained by Rangers.

I can't get over the fact of seeing so many older men here. I can't reconcile it. And there are plenty of lawyers, accountants & business men here, too. As I understand it, the cell went in for this new division

and we were "it."

Thanks for your kindness in offering to send me anything I need - just send me some good luck, or better still, a transfer to the new Castle Army Air Base.

Don't worry, if I get any stripes here & if you are called, you won't get latrine duty.

Well, boss, I want to wish you & your family a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year. (I can't buy Jewish greeting cards here).

I would give a buck for a good bottle of beer. G.I. beer stinks, as does our drinking water, which is not as good as our food. In fact, I have to walk to our latrine to get a drink of water.

Sincerely,

Watte.

[Nathan Kos brow]

Regards to Molly, the Board, & the Gynae Class.

I wouldn't publish this letter in the Recorder. I'll send you one later which will be better suited for the "public".