

Monday
July 16, 1945

Dear Mother, Dad and Mary Jo

It is about time that I accounted for my activities of the past week. I hope you will excuse the delay caused by my being pro-
ratched around and confined by the course of study I am taking here at the Army Industrial College.
First of all I will elaborate a little on our trip. We made very good time on these
over good roads and comparatively level country and
arrived at Canton, Ohio without incident. That
was better than 500 miles at an average speed of
40 + MPH. including the stops we made for gas etc.
She was wonderful for this first day of the trip's expense
and for the whole trip. The next day we got a
fairly early start and drove through to Pittsburgh
before we stopped for breakfast. Just a short distance
after entering the Pa. Turnpike, on the best road
we have been on thus far and while traveling between
40 + 50 MPH. we had our first trouble - Bang went
my only re-capped tire. It blew out right where the
new rubber and old riding meet, I believe the weakest
point or area in such a tire. Anyway I had to
change the tire and what a job I had. She was much
~~concerned~~ concerned over the trouble and the trouble I
had with the jack. It was stuck in the up position
and I couldn't get it to release and go down. When she
saw my predicament she piped up with the bright
remark to her mother "what is the matter with the
damned thing, mommie?" We could hardly keep from
laughing as you can imagine. I hadn't cursed or anything
because of her being near, although I very well felt like it.
When Mary asked her where she heard that word before,
she said she heard a little girl say it. She very well
knew that it applied to a situation such as we were
in. I finally got the jack to work but it wouldn't raise
the car only so far - after trying many times and having
it slip down the road I gave up and stopped a raising.

Car. Five young fellows very kindly provide a workable jack and assisted in changing the wheel. Of course we drove with extra care after that and not over 45 even though the roads were good. There was no possibility of repair the tire anywhere nor of picking up an old one for a spare while on the turnpike. When we passed through a town after turning off the pike I forgot the name of the town, I stopped at a garage where it was apparent that they worked on tires and knew about them because of all the tires piled around. The man there said he could do nothing for me but recommended that I stop at a certain tire inspection station at the next town Mercersburg, Pa. and they probably could help me as the ration board there was pretty good about taking care of such situation. That we found out and with the most valuable assistance of the proprietor of the station, a woman who was operating it while her husband was in the army, we got an application approved by the ration board for a new Goodyear tire. Hardly any questions were asked as I was traveling under orders.

We stayed in Md. on Friday night and drove into Wash. D.C. on Saturday morning arriving at the Navy Bldg. about 11 o'clock. I found that I had a lot of chasing around to do in getting reported in and lined up for this course I am now taking. The Navy Housing Office had procured a room for us at the Penn Colonial Hotel, on the basis of the telegram I had sent so we were taken care of for supposedly 5 days.

Sunday we took things rather easily thinking that something would turn up for us in the way of a room or apt. for us through the housing office and they wouldn't do anything for us until I was certain of how long I would be here.

Well I ran out of time yesterday during the noon hour and here it is about 10:30 P.M. Tuesday night before I'm getting back to my story. This school on Contract Terminations is tough in the sense that such a volume of material and work is thrown at you in such a short time. I do believe I would get more out of it if more time were allowed. As it is I'm trying my darndest to get all I can and it really makes for full days and tiresome ones at that. Mary has told you of my leaving here by 20 minutes to seven each morning and not getting back to this remote place until nearly five. While at the Pentagon Bldg. I have about 1 1/2 hours to study before my classes commence at 9:40 A.M. Class runs for 50 minutes with a ten minute break in between each - three in the evening and ~~three~~ in the afternoon commencing at 1:40 P.M. I'm out at 3:30 P.M. and start on my way home.

Eating out is a problem in that it takes so long - usually have to wait to get a table anywhere you go. After we eat in the evening we try to spend a little time together riding in the car or at a playground where Sue can enjoy herself more. Then it is study time for me. I would like to get in about 2 1/2 hours each night but it seldom works out that I do. Sue just won't go to sleep while Mary and I are up so I try to go to bed around 10 or 10:30 P.M. for that reason as well as to permit a good night's sleep before starting the next day.

I think I will like this work I'm getting into after completion of the three week course. It will be some phase of termination work on Navy Contractors - the course I'm taking is general but my assignment will no doubt be to some specific phase of the work. I'm told that I will be sent to one of the 19 field offices located in the major industrial regions of the U.S. I'm hoping for some place in the middle West - the closer to home the better.

We have had quite a time finding

desireable living quarter. Because of my short stay here it is almost impossible to obtain an apartment. Sub-leases of apts. are available of course but you have to be right in an advanced notice of their becoming available or otherwise right there when they open up or you don't have a chance. Furthermore most places, apts or rooms, don't allow children. After spending one night, last Wednesday, with a friend of Mary's, Mary located the room we have now. It rented for \$12 a week which sounds cheap for Wash. But isn't when you're the house it is in and the facilities available. It is livable and we have gotten along. It has rained so much that our search for a different place has been almost stopped. However, in spite of the rain we looked tonight and have found possibilities of rooms in better homes opening up soon. They are quite near here, too. Our main reason for looking tonight was that a new notice of price for this room was posted today - raising it to \$21 a week and boy for that money we want a lot more than we got here - I hope we get it, too.

We haven't had much time for sight-seeing etc. Each Sunday we have taken in some of the ~~state~~ federal buildings and memorials etc. Last Sunday we toured the Capital and visited the Washington monument. It is all very interesting, though pictures we have seen make these buildings and structures seem very familiar.

All in all we are getting along fine and are enjoying being together as much as we are in spite of the difficulties each one of the three of us have to endure. I just wouldn't have it any other way than for the three of us to be together - Lots of love,

P.S. We hope to have a new address to send you in a day or two. Have a couple of nice leads. George