

MUD, MOUNTAINS, AND MEDICINE

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HELLGATE PRESS



ASHLAND, OREGON

MUD, MOUNTAINS, AND MEDICINE

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Published by Hellgate Press
(An imprint of L&R Publishing, LLC)

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Hellgate Press
PO Box 3531
Ashland, OR 97520
email: sales@hellgatepress.com

Book Design and Layout: PerfecType, Nashville, TN

Cover Design: L. Redding

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data available upon request from the publisher

Printed and bound in the United States of America

First Edition 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*This book is dedicated to my father's grandchildren,
John, David, Joanne, Nathan, Matthew and Hannah,
and to the future generations.*

—Sandra Paulus Buch

INTRODUCTION

My father, Edward Whitacre Paulus, was born in Johnson County, Iowa in 1909. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Iowa. He married my mother, Veda Hosler, in 1934. My sister, Susan, was born in 1937 and my brother, Edward Jr., in 1938.

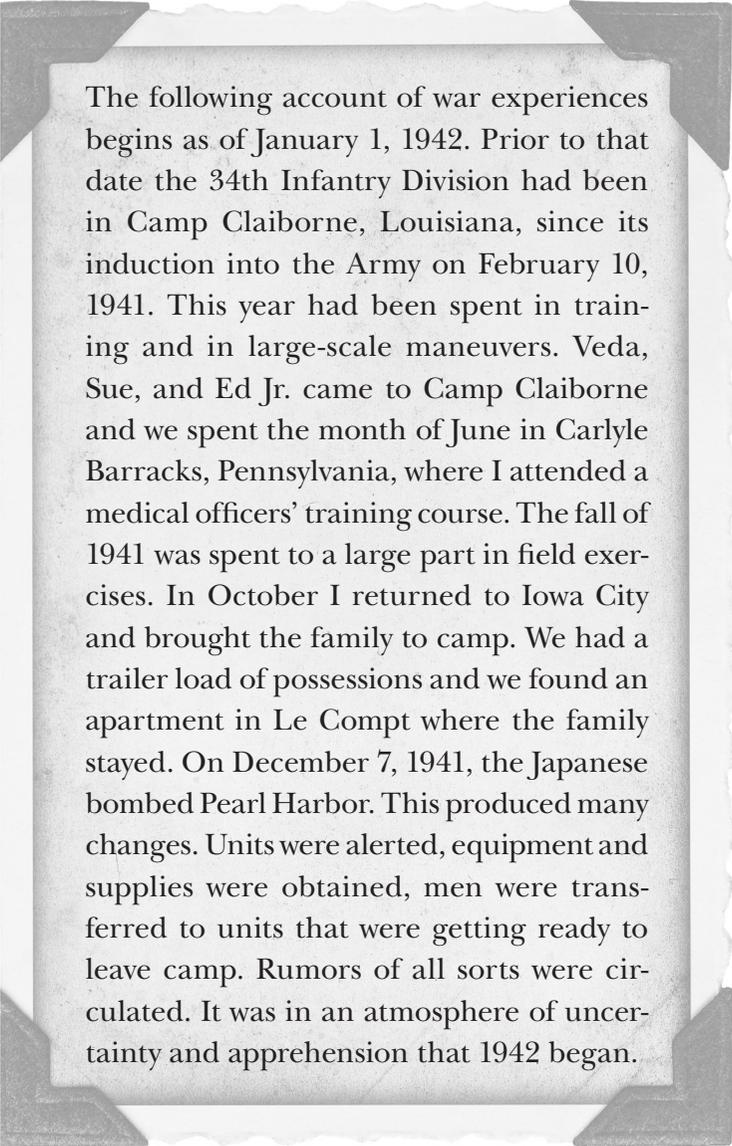
My father was a member of the Iowa National Guard. In 1941, the Guard was called to service and inducted into the U.S. Army. Beginning January 1, 1942, when he was stationed at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, my father kept a diary in which he wrote every day until October 19, 1945, when he returned home to Iowa City. I was born in 1947.

The original diary is a small book, about 5½ by 3¾ inches, with enough space on each page for entries covering five years. It has a worn leather cover that says "Service Diary" and an insignia of the U.S. Army. My father always kept the diary in his top desk drawer. Occasionally I would take it out and try to read parts of it, but the handwriting was so small and difficult to read that I always gave up. Still, I did not want the contents of the diary to be lost, so in 1974, after I had moved to Oregon with my husband and children, I asked my father to read the diary into a tape recorder and mail the tapes to me. Then I listened to them and typed them on my portable typewriter. I mailed the rough draft back to him for corrections, and then I produced the finished copy.

I originally had five copies printed and bound: one for my parents, one for my sister, one for my brother, one for me, and one for my father's two sisters. At this time, I have decided to have additional copies made so that my children and my sister's children can each have copies of their own, and so that I can donate copies to the Iowa State Historical Society and to the Minnesota Military Museum.

—Sandra Paulus Buch
2009

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The following account of war experiences begins as of January 1, 1942. Prior to that date the 34th Infantry Division had been in Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, since its induction into the Army on February 10, 1941. This year had been spent in training and in large-scale maneuvers. Veda, Sue, and Ed Jr. came to Camp Claiborne and we spent the month of June in Carlyle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where I attended a medical officers' training course. The fall of 1941 was spent to a large part in field exercises. In October I returned to Iowa City and brought the family to camp. We had a trailer load of possessions and we found an apartment in Le Compt where the family stayed. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. This produced many changes. Units were alerted, equipment and supplies were obtained, men were transferred to units that were getting ready to leave camp. Rumors of all sorts were circulated. It was in an atmosphere of uncertainty and apprehension that 1942 began.



JANUARY 1, 1942. Thursday. Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. A day of duty. About 300 men and eight officers were transferred from regiment to the 53rd Medical Battalion and the Tenth Station Hospital. These men included Bruce Howar, Harold Jirsa, James Redmond, and Bill Yetter. We learned that the 136th Medical Regiment was probably going to be changed to a medical battalion.

JANUARY 2, 1942. Friday. Camp Claiborne. The 53rd Medical Battalion left camp during the night. Two of my men in the clearing battalion headquarters, Privates Nelson and Menard, are with the Tenth Station Hospital. Excitement is lessening around the regiment.

JANUARY 3, 1942. Saturday. Camp Claiborne. The Tenth Station Hospital left camp early this morning. The medical regiment has been alerted to leave camp on short notice. Equipment packing and marking has begun. I did not get home today. A case of meningitis has developed among the men.

JANUARY 4, 1942. Sunday. Camp Claiborne. There are a number of carriers of meningococci reported in contacts with

the case. All are sent to the hospital. The regiment continues on the alert.

JANUARY 5, 1942. Monday. Camp Claiborne. The 1st Battalion is ready to leave. Cars are loaded. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions are packed. Samplings taken from 2nd and 3rd Battalions for throat cultures.

JANUARY 6, 1942. Tuesday. Camp Claiborne. The 1st Battalion left camp. Loading of cars begun for the rest of the regiment. Everything packed and ready to go. There are ten more carriers in the regiment.

JANUARY 7, 1942. Wednesday. Camp Claiborne. Practically all of loading finished. Carriers released from the hospital and an isolation group established in Company C. Given Sulfapyridine daily for three days. To be isolated on the train when we leave camp.

JANUARY 8, 1942. Thursday. A day of waiting. Had a chance to get to Le Compt for an afternoon with Veda. Loaded the trailer. Dinner at Meyer's Cafe. Back to camp.

JANUARY 9, 1942. Friday. Boarded the train and left Camp Claiborne about noon. The regiment loaded without difficulty. The train is fine. The pullman is good. Alexandria and Monroe are passed through on the way.

JANUARY 10, 1942. Saturday. We are on the train en route to Camp Dix, New Jersey. Going through Vicksburg, Meridian, Mississippi, Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia. Had 30 minutes off the train for exercise. The isolation car is doing well.

JANUARY 11, 1942. Sunday. Arrived in Camp Dix at 8:30 p.m. and occupied some barracks. The train went through Raleigh, Richmond, and Washington, D.C. We had 30 minutes for exercise and marched up to see the Capitol Building. The isolation car is doing well.

JANUARY 12, 1942. Monday. Camp Dix, New Jersey. A day of confused preparation. Equipment and clothing are requisitioned. Inoculations are given. Rosters and identification cards are made out. I sent a telegram and wrote a letter to Veda.

JANUARY 13, 1942. Tuesday. Camp Dix. Preparations and confusion continue. Called Veda long distance at Iowa City. Everyone is well there. The regiment made a march to get photographed but it was all in vain. No equipment. Received some medical supplies from the dispensary.

JANUARY 14, 1942. Wednesday. Camp Dix. Preparations at a standstill. Made a trip to station hospital for more supplies. Did my laundry. My luggage has been lettered. Attended a USO show in the evening and went to the Officer's Club and saw Captain McGonigle of the Engineer Battalion.

JANUARY 15, 1942. Thursday. Camp Dix. Spent the morning getting four teeth filled by Lt. Barry at the dental dispensary. An uneventful day. Tried to see "Sgt. York," a movie, in the evening, but the theater was filled. Preparations are as the last three days—nothing much doing.

JANUARY 16, 1942. Friday. Camp Dix. The regiment was x-rayed this morning. The set-up worked well but was late in getting started. Went to a movie "The Night of January 16." Something of a coincidence. It was only fair. It has been

announced that we would be here for about three weeks more. Phoned Veda. She probably will not be able to come.

JANUARY 17, 1942. Saturday. Camp Dix. Inoculated about 4,000 men, including myself, with a team. I was somewhat irritated by an overbearing lieutenant who seemed to be in charge. Went to New York in the afternoon and evening and was properly amazed and delighted. Hope to return soon. Back to camp by 2 a.m. Very tired but pleased.

JANUARY 18, 1942. Sunday. Camp Dix. A day of quiet. My arm is sore. Wrote a long letter to Veda. A good dinner. Long walk with brother John in the afternoon. Visited Burin Grud in the hospital. Impressed by the immense size of the camp. Played checkers awhile and went to bed early.

JANUARY 19, 1942. Monday. Camp Dix. Had a letter from Veda. She is going to come east, to Michigan the 21st and to Trenton the 22nd, leaving the children with Hazel. It rained most of the day here so that little was accomplished. Some more dental work done by Lt. Barry. Helped in the dispensary and watched the staff assemble jigsaw puzzles.

JANUARY 20, 1942. Tuesday. Immunizations are to be done by the units—a procedure that should have been started a week ago. We will service several unattached units. I phoned Veda and got the details of her trip. She should arrive in Trenton by 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 21, 1942. Wednesday. Camp Dix. A morning of immunizations. We received yellow fever vaccine. In the evening we were photographed and fingerprinted. We received

large quantities of immunizing materials to put out to units of the task force. A lazy p.m.

JANUARY 22, 1942. Thursday. Camp Dix. The usual day. Veda arrived in Trenton by 7 p.m. I was certainly glad to see her. She is staying at the Windsor. We saw a show and I was back home by 1 a.m. on Friday.

JANUARY 23, 1942. Friday. Camp Dix. Immunizing program continuing. The usual camp day. To Trenton in the evening. Saw another show, "H. M. Pullum Esquire." I hear that Sue is to be a schoolgirl next Monday.

JANUARY 24, 1942. Saturday. Camp Dix. A full morning of immunizing. To New York with Veda by 3 p.m., staying at the Knickerbocker Hotel. Saw Broadway in all its glory. Shopped at Macy's, visited Radio City, attended Paramount, and heard Gene Krupa and band. To bed late.

JANUARY 25, 1942. Sunday. New York. A wonderful day. Went by foot, subway, taxi, and bus. Saw the Empire State Building, a magnificent building, and such a view. Statue of Liberty from the Battery. Radio City and a radio broadcast. Another show and back to Camp Dix on the 11:30. Tired.

JANUARY 26, 1942. Monday. Camp Dix. More inoculations including my own, which gave me a sore arm and a headache. The regiment saw a training film on the interrogation of prisoners. In the evening I went to Trenton. Veda stayed in New York to shop and did very nicely. To bed 1 a.m.

JANUARY 27, 1942. Tuesday. Camp Dix. Half sick most of the day as a result of my shot. The usual inoculations were given.

A nice ten-mile hike in the afternoon. It is interesting country around the camp. To Trenton in the evening for dinner and a show with Veda. She looked nice in her new dress. The Bothells, Burin Grud, Virgil Parker and brother John also went along. Veda starts back home from Trenton at 4:10 tomorrow.

JANUARY 28, 1942. Wednesday. Camp Dix. About par for a Wednesday. The regiment received small pox immunizations today and I got mine. My typhoid reaction is practically over. To Trenton in the afternoon and saw Veda off to New York on the 4:10. To a USO show in the evening. It was good with Joe E. Brown and Linda Darnell. Snow and colder today. There's been talk of changing the regiment to a battalion.

JANUARY 29, 1942. Thursday. Camp Dix. The talk continues that we are to be a medical battalion and there is a rumor that I am to remain in it, as executive officer. Went for a long hike this afternoon. Some checkers, a letter to Veda, and to bed early. The division is in turmoil in its rebirth pangs. Everyone apprehensive as to the future. Lists of excess noncoms have been made up.

JANUARY 30, 1942. Friday. Still at Camp Dix. Spent the morning immunizing the regiment. Complete now. Hike in the afternoon. Got a blister on my heel. The 136th Medical Regiment is to be changed to the 109th Medical Battalion by order today. Still nothing definite about assignments. Many rumors.

JANUARY 31, 1942. Saturday. Camp Dix. I am to be the Executive Officer of the new 109th Medical Battalion. Haven't yet decided whether to feel complimented or not. Peterson is to go to the 135th Infantry Regiment. Leo Sedlacek and Jenkins are excess officers. Spent a good share of today getting records

in shape. Had pictures taken in the afternoon. It rained most of the day and was quite dismal. Saw "Little Foxes" at night and was disappointed with it.

FEBRUARY 1, 1942. Sunday. Ft. Dix. A new month and a new battalion. Special orders, etc., are flying around. Spent the day getting organized in the new headquarters. New officers coming in, new men arriving. It is cold and windy. Felt a little lonesome for home and family.

FEBRUARY 2, 1942. Monday. Ft. Dix. In the midst of reorganization. Much confusion. Disbanded companies are being closed. New officers coming in. New men from Camp Lee, Virginia, and Veda called from Hopkins. There has been a storm in Iowa and she is to go home tomorrow.

FEBRUARY 3, 1942. Tuesday. Ft. Dix. Confusion gradually giving way to order as the work of reorganization is done. New men assigned. Six new officers arrived. I'm beginning to get a grasp on things. Not so bad.

FEBRUARY 4, 1942. Wednesday. Ft. Dix. Much quieter day. Spent most of the day in headquarters. I can see my way clear now. Bought gifts for Sue and Eddie for birthdays. Had a hot bath and went to bed early.

FEBRUARY 5, 1942. Thursday. Ft. Dix. A day of relative peace and quiet. Lt. Gallo has been made the Plans and Training Officer. It snowed most of the day. A letter from Veda. I believe that I'll be able to manage my new job.

FEBRUARY 6, 1942. Friday. Ft. Dix. A miserable day for the most part. It rained, it snowed, and there was mud. I got rather

tired and fed up and went to Trenton with Lt. Berlin in the evening. Visited night clubs in the Hotel Hillebrecht and across the street. The floor shows only fair. Home by 4 a.m.

FEBRUARY 7, 1942. Saturday. At the station hospital in Ft. Dix. Of all things! I developed mumps this morning and went to the hospital this afternoon. I'm on a contagious floor, number 42. I don't believe I'm going to like it. I look like Charles Laughton. Not so good on sleep.

FEBRUARY 8, 1942. Sunday. A birthday. Station hospital. A hospital is a dreary place. No one to talk to. Trying to read *The Crisis*. Had my bath in bed. Meals are good. I had Bob Hardin come over to put in a phone call home. Everyone OK there. I wish I could have done it myself.

FEBRUARY 9, 1942. Monday. In the hospital. The mumps continue. I'm more comfortable today. Col. Fourt called. I spent the day reading and listening to the radio. I'm about halfway through *The Crisis*. Sorry to hear of the Normandy burning. Singapore seems in a bad way. No new rumors.

FEBRUARY 10, 1942. Tuesday. Ft. Dix Hospital. Another mumpy day. Dismal outside. Cheerful inside of Ward 42. The first anniversary of induction celebrated by the battalion. Just why they feel like celebrating is hard for me to understand. Singapore more desperate. Received four letters from home. They are all well.

FEBRUARY 11, 1942. Wednesday. Station Hospital, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. An average day. Mumps are smaller. I feel fair. Appetite is no good. Col. Fourt and brother John visited. Nothing new about the battalion. It is doing well. Singapore about gone.

MacArthur doing a fine job in the Philippines. Wish we could help him. Continuing my reading and radio listening.

FEBRUARY 12, 1942. Thursday. Station Hospital, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Lincoln's birthday. I am about the same today. The radio is fine. I've heard several good Lincoln programs. I began to have a fever yesterday about 4:00 and had a chill during the night. Apparently no cause for it. Certainly hope it is not repeated.

FEBRUARY 13, 1942. Friday. Ft. Dix Hospital. I feel improved today. Much better by 11 a.m. Col. Fourt and Capt. Parke called for a visit. A box from home came yesterday. I don't feel like eating anything from it as yet, however it looks very good. Another letter from home and two jigsaw puzzles.

FEBRUARY 14, 1942. Saturday. Station Hospital, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. My febrile course continues. Orchitis is about the same. Col. Fourt visited this afternoon. There's no real news. Jenkins has orders to go to West Point. If the battalion leaves before I am out of the hospital I am to wait behind and go with a later group. The radio is good today. Heard many fine broadcasts. Singapore about finished.

FEBRUARY 15, 1942. Sunday. Ft. Dix Hospital. My fever continues but is less severe. Mumps are smaller, the orchitis is about the same. Col. Fourt called. The organizational equipment for the battalion has been loaded. Men are expected to go about Wednesday. I am to stay with the 135th Infantry Regiment if I get left behind. Heard Churchill speak and announce the loss of Singapore. Tough.

FEBRUARY 16, 1942. Monday. Station Hospital, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. My temperature is normal. My orchitis is better. Feel

better all over. Col. Fourt called. The date still seems to be Wednesday which is day after tomorrow. It seems doubtful that I can go along. Heard that Peterson and several MAC officers were to go to an armored unit at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. The battalion lost about 20 noncoms to officers' school. I heard that brother John got to go. That will be swell. The radio is good today. It rained today.

FEBRUARY 17, 1942. Tuesday. Ft. Dix Hospital. Today I am well again and should be able to leave soon. A gloomy day. Col. Fourt came at 8 p.m. and said the battalion was ready to leave and were to entrain during the night. I have been transferred to 135th Infantry and my baggage is over there. Looks like I would miss the boat this time. They might not leave.

FEBRUARY 18, 1942. Wednesday. Station Hospital, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Getting up yesterday and more today. I think I could leave today if I wished to. Very little happened today. Brother John came over. He, with other officer school appointees, is living in tents and awaiting orders to go to school. Finished most of my reading material. The radio is good tonight.

FEBRUARY 19, 1942. Thursday. Station Hospital to the 135th Infantry Regiment. A clear cold day. Much as usual in the ward. Left the hospital at 1 p.m. and went to the 135th Infantry. Talked with Major Andreasen. Apparently I am to rest and recuperate for awhile. I got settled in the officers' barracks. I phoned Veda in the evening. Good to hear her and Sue and Eddie. To bed early.

FEBRUARY 20, 1942. Friday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. An easy morning. Got my pay vouchers filled out. Watched sick call and loafed around the dispensary until noon.

Bought a 135th Infantry crest to send home. Inquired about a leave and got Col. Nelson's consent. I'm feeling fine now. No swelling anywhere anymore.

FEBRUARY 21, 1942. Saturday. Ft. Dix. I pushed my leave through this morning. Talked with Gen. Collins. Left camp 1 p.m. to Trenton. Saw a movie, "Son of Fury." The train left at 6 p.m. Went to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, etc. A drunken sailor complicated the trip somewhat.

FEBRUARY 22, 1942. Sunday. En route to Iowa City. Chicago at 9:30 a.m. Phoned home. Made reservations on the Rocket, and had breakfast at Webb's. Saw a movie, "Keep 'em Flying." The Rocket left at 1:55 p.m. and arrived in Iowa City at 5:50. A happy reunion all around. Glad to be home.

FEBRUARY 23, 1942. Monday. Iowa City, Iowa. A leisurely spent day. Listened to President Roosevelt at night, had a nap in the afternoon, played with the children.

FEBRUARY 24, 1942. Tuesday. Iowa City, Iowa. Went to Mercy Hospital with Dr. Bennett and saw most of the physicians. The younger ones are worried about being called into the Army. Went to Kiwanis at noon. Listed my insurance for Veda. Went calling in the afternoon.

FEBRUARY 25, 1942. Iowa City, Iowa. Spent the morning running errands and getting a haircut. Talked with Mr. Welt about office. He is going to adjust the rent for Dr. Bennett and I will be out of the lease. I'm a fugitive from a ladies' aid meeting in the evening and went to see "The Man Who Came to Dinner." It was good.

FEBRUARY 26, 1942. Thursday. Iowa City, Iowa. An enjoyable day. Errands in the morning, to a movie with Sue and Eddie in the afternoon, and to dinner and bridge at Enderby's in the evening. Saw the home guard at the armory in the evening, Capt. Gifford, Lt. Roberson, and Lt. Erbe. I knew over half of the men. They are long on spirit, and short on equipment.

FEBRUARY 27, 1942. Friday. Iowa City, Iowa. This morning I walked downtown and did errands. I completed arrangements with Welt and Bennett. I am to pay \$20 a month on the rent. A lazy afternoon with a jigsaw puzzle. Dinner at the Mad Hatter's and saw "Bahama Passage." The time certainly flies by. Only one more day.

FEBRUARY 28, 1942. Saturday. Iowa City, Iowa. My last day of leave. Did some errands in the morning. Saw "Smiling Through" in the afternoon. It was good. Had a fine dinner in the evening and got to bed in good time. I certainly hate to leave.

FEBRUARY 29, 1942. We missed this year.

MARCH 1, 1942. Sunday. Iowa City, Iowa, to Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A Sunday. Spent the day from 4 a.m. on trains. The Rock Island to Chicago and the Pennsylvania to Trenton. The riding was not so bad. Did lots of reading and talking to soldiers.

MARCH 2, 1942. Monday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Arrived at Trenton 5 a.m. and to camp at 6 a.m. Learned my duties. I am to check records and assist in training. I had a class on close order drill. A hike in the afternoon went very nicely. Had a bath and to bed by 10 o'clock. Wrote a letter to Veda. Things seem about the same as before my leave.

MARCH 3, 1942. Tuesday. A rainy day. Spent the morning in the motor pool getting members of the detachment to drive a truck. I got to drive the peep and it is some fun. In the p.m. a hike with the 1st Battalion. Wrote a letter to Veda and took it to the post office. Saw a movie, "Joe Smith American." Tried to locate Carroll Williams unsuccessfully.

MARCH 4, 1942. Wednesday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey, 135th Infantry Regiment. An average day. Training in the morning, a walk and a talk with George Easton, and an officers' school on the 75-millimeter gun in the afternoon. Easton knew a lot of news. I called brother John. He leaves Friday.

MARCH 5, 1942. Thursday. Camp Dix, New Jersey. To the range in the morning where I fired the M-1 rifle. I enjoyed being there. In the afternoon I worked with Jacobsen on the training program and went to the theater to see a training film on first aid. Wrote a letter, saw a movie, "Bedtime Story" and back to the barracks to bed.

MARCH 6, 1942. Friday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A rainy day. The program was changed so that I had an hour quiz during the morning. Played chess and loafed most of the afternoon. The war news is mostly bad. Java is hard pressed. Saw a movie in the afternoon, pretty fair one.

MARCH 7, 1942. Saturday. Ft. Dix. Spent the morning at sick call and in inspections of the 2nd Battalion Medical Section and the kitchens. Napped in the afternoon and took a two-hour walk to Wrightstown. In the evening saw a movie which was fair and a tennis exhibition which was good.

MARCH 8, 1942. Sunday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Splendid day. Helped at sick call until 10:30 and then walked to Brown's Mill. Had a good dinner. Walked in the afternoon until I was tired out. Phoned Veda. Good to hear her. Everyone is OK. Mailed my letters. Stayed in so Capt. Karn could go home and went to sleep early.

MARCH 9, 1942. Monday. Ft. Dix. A very windy and rainy day. The morning program went off smoothly. Hiked in the afternoon in the rain but it wasn't bad. Received three letters and a check for \$30 from Veda. Took my letter down to be mailed. No show tonight. Early to bed.

MARCH 10, 1942. Tuesday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A nice day. Still windy. The training went well. Had a tactical march in the afternoon which went slowly. Officers' school. Mailed my letter. Saw some film of football and baseball in the rec hall. To bed 11 p.m.

MARCH 11, 1942. Wednesday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A morning of training and range work with machine guns. An afternoon of map reading classes and leisure. Watched Joe Lewis box and saw Jesse Owens at the sports arena. At night went to New York City with Capt. Leibowitz and saw "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the Fulton. Very good comedy about murders. Got back to camp about 2 a.m. after uneventful trip and to bed.

MARCH 12, 1942. Thursday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. An uneventful day. The usual training schedule. In the evening attended a dinner for the birthdays of Col. Nelson and Col. Ott. Gen. Collins was present. A delicious steak. Ice cream and cake. To bed late.

MARCH 13, 1942. Friday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A swell day. Clear and bright. Had an hour lecture and a map exam in the morning, a hike in the afternoon. In the evening a practical exam on compass course. Planned to go to Philadelphia with George Easton tomorrow.

MARCH 14, 1942. Saturday. Ft. Dix. What a change. A cold, rainy day. Postponed the Philadelphia trip. Inspections in the morning. It continued to rain in the afternoon. I napped, received four letters. Cute one from Sue entitled, "Always in My Heart."

MARCH 15, 1942. Sunday. Ft. Dix. Cold, overcast. Walked to Bordentown to Capt. Gumbert's. Went out to an old house. It was worth visiting. Dinner at Imperial Cafe. To camp and to see "Woman of the Year." Thought it very good. Phoned Veda. Everyone well. To bed.

MARCH 16, 1942. Monday. Ft. Dix. A day of training and hiking. Cold and overcast, heavy rain in the evening. My family sent my birthday box and my fingers are itching. Played chess and to bed in good time.

MARCH 17, 1942. Tuesday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Training in the morning. In the afternoon the battalion sections moved into new quarters so there was no hike. Went with Liebowitz to New York City and saw "Banjo Eyes" with Eddie Cantor. It was good. On the way home a heavy fog delayed us for about an hour.

MARCH 18, 1942. Wednesday. Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A usual day. Training in the morning, played chess in the afternoon,

visited the USO center in Pointsville and had class at 4 p.m. Took a ride with Liebowitz. To bed.

MARCH 19, 1942. Thursday. Ft. Dix. An ordinary training day. In the morning we had a training film and in the afternoon we studied on medical records. Had a practice air raid alarm at 10:30 p.m. Back to the barracks by 11:15 and to bed.

MARCH 20, 1942. Friday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Another average day. Training program in the morning. The regiment policed the area in the afternoon. Walked to the hospital to see George Easton. He is better. Played chess with Col. Lund in the evening. No new rumors. Apparently to stay here awhile longer. No plans for the weekend.

MARCH 21, 1942. Saturday. Ft. Dix. Inspection and review this morning. Rained all afternoon and evening making it impossible to do anything. Stayed in and read and studied for next week. I'll go to Philadelphia tomorrow if it is a nice day. In all other respects, things are quiet. Not even a good rumor.

MARCH 22, 1942. Sunday. Ft. Dix. Spent the day in Philadelphia. Visited Independence Hall, and the Liberty Bell. Went to the Franklin Institute and was impressed with the completeness of the displays. You could spend days there. Saw much of the downtown. Back to camp by midnight.

MARCH 23, 1942. Monday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A usual day. Training in the morning. We hike in the afternoon. At night went to see "Captains of the Clouds" in technicolor and it was very good. No rumors today. Probably will stay for some time yet. In bed by 11 o'clock.

MARCH 24, 1942. Tuesday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Much like any other day. Had a class in medical records and a class on infantry weapons, with a chance to assemble and disassemble the M-1 rifle. We went on a hike in the afternoon with the 2nd Battalion. Went to the center at night for a chess book and played some chess with Lt. Larson.

MARCH 25, 1942. Wednesday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A day of training. Had a class in medical records. In the afternoon had coffee at the center and school at 4 p.m. At night saw "Hellzapoppin'" with Al Jolson and Johnson. Lots of slapstick but was very enjoyable. To bed early.

MARCH 26, 1942. Thursday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. An average day. Training in the morning, saw some training films, and then tested gas masks in the gas area. Had a letter from Veda in which I learned that we bought the lot for \$1600. Walked to the center to mail a letter. Home and to bed.

MARCH 27, 1942. Friday. Ft. Dix. About as usual today. Training program followed by a nice hike in the afternoon with the detachment. In the evening went to the center and heard a Princeton professor talk on world affairs. Went home to the barracks to hear Joe Lewis fight. Joe Lewis whipped Abe Simon in the sixth. To bed.

MARCH 28, 1942. Saturday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Went to New York City in the afternoon with Leibowitz. Saw "King's Row" and liked it. Saw "Cafe Crown," a play with Col. Easton and thought it only fair. Saw a radio broadcast, "Abby's Irish Rose" at 11:30. Then to the Piccadilly. To bed.

MARCH 29, 1942. Sunday. New York City. Up at 7:00. Took the ferry to the Statue of Liberty and climbed to the top. Cold and windy. Walked to the financial and city hall districts, to top of Empire State Building. Had a tour of the city at 2 p.m. from the YMCA. Very interesting. Saw "Porgy and Bess" at night and liked it very much. Back to camp.

MARCH 30, 1942. Monday. Ft. Dix. An average day. Was tired from lack of sleep. Had a nice hike in the afternoon. No new developments. There is a chance that I can get leave. To bed early.

MARCH 31, 1942. Tuesday. Ft. Dix. The usual day of training. Had a nice hike in the afternoon. It was payday today. Put in for leave and it was granted. To go home Thursday afternoon, return Tuesday. I can hardly wait.

APRIL 1, 1942. Wednesday. 135th Infantry, Ft. Dix, New Jersey. A letter and a box of candy from Veda. Both sweet. Had an average training day. Class of NCO's at 1 p.m. Played ball for awhile. Coffee at the center, and had a quiet evening.

APRIL 2, 1942. Thursday. Ft. Dix. Another average day. Training in the morning. Left camp at 4 p.m. for Trenton. Took the 5 o'clock train to Philadelphia and changed there to the General. Everything went along smoothly.

APRIL 3, 1942. Friday. En route to Iowa City. Spent the layover in Chicago shopping and saw a movie. The Rocket was crowded and barely got a seat. Uneventful ride to Iowa City. Arrived at 6 p.m.

APRIL 4, 1942. Saturday. On leave, Iowa City, Iowa. A pleasant day. Fixed the sandpile and did some errands in the morning.