

Hi,

Sunday 29 Mar 5

I'm sorry I haven't written sooner but I've been having a little trouble trying to find some spare time. However, I'm getting a system underway where I'll write mom and she'll make carbon copies to send on to the family and some of my friends. Of course these letters will be very general in information but it is either that or not writing except at long intervals. In a way I feel guilty about this as I will be receiving letters first hand and I will not be able to respond accordingly. I will try to answer any questions individually if and when I find the time.

As far as my liking or disliking Army life, it ^{is} would be difficult to make a decision. It is something I have to go through and I've already met several disappointments. I have drawn KP four times in my first three weeks. I would rather have any other detail than that as it is a continuous 16 hour drag of monotonous work. My biggest disappointment came when I was transferred from an 8 week

2.

basic training cycle to a 16 week cycle. When I left Ft. Meade, I left with a group which was scheduled for only 8 weeks. However, after leaving the reception center here, I found myself in with a group of fellows in a 16 week cycle. I have been told that the reason for this is that there are not too many openings in certain schools which I would be eligible to attend. At Meade I was classified S & P (Specialty and Professional) due to my being a college graduate and having some IBM experience. There is still a chance that I will be able to attend another school when I graduate from basic, but my chances are much slimmer as most of the men leaving basic training (16 week cycle) are classified infantry replacements and are shipped overseas. The main reason that they do not tell the men what is in store for them is that they want everyone to plan on going to Korea and thus concentrate on what they are being taught.

The main reason that I am writing today is that I want to ask Walter a question: Walt, I have a chance to buy

an Argus C3 ³ camera for about '60, including the case and flash unit. Do you think it is a good buy for me or should I get a cheaper one such as a Kodak Pony (about '35) or a Ansco Viking (about '30)? I want to get a fairly good camera, but I do not know too much about them. I have been told that the Argus is an exceptionally good camera and that it is well worth the price. Let me know what you think as I would like to buy a camera pretty soon.

Love,
Alan