

Latrine duty -



UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES
SANTA ANA ARMY AIR BASE
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

Friday, Nov. 12, 1943

Dear Mom,

I am writing this to you because I thought you might get a big laugh out of some of the incidents in it. I hope you do.

Today was M-I, the first scheduled day of our classification. It started out with a big inspection of the barracks this morning, for which we were supposed to prepare ~~last~~ night. But with typical Army foresight they marched us down to a band concert which lasted all evening instead. It was a swing band, and pretty good in their line, but I didn't enjoy it too much. They swung Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C Sharp Minor - the one I like so well - and poor Sergei hardly dead. He must have turned over last night in his grave.

Yesterday afternoon a corporal came in and instructed us on what would be expected of us in the inspection today - and here's the laugh.

"Gentlemen, that latrine will be spotless! The toilet paper will hang one sheet down, from the back of the roll. No ragged edges - trim them off with a knife or scissors. I want the brass polished so bright the officer can shave in it.

The mops will be hung outside, with no knots in them. Train them off, too.

The beds will be made with a hood (Editor's note - a blanket folded double) over the pillow. On the bed frame you will find two holes drilled. That hood will bisect those holes - not a havi' off. "He went on with more - all together it took him about an hour - but those are few of the highlights.

We have to be so on the ball here - it makes C.T.D look like child's play. Anyway, we passed the inspection after slaving three hours this morning. I even got down on my hands & knees and scrubbed the cracks in the floor with an old tooth-brush.

We have a swell lieutenant here - Patrick A. Quigley. He can really be tough, but if you play ball with him he is really swell. This noon he had us outside just chewing our funny something awful about noise in the mess hall, and afterwards he was in our barracks looking at one of the boys who was sick, and took him down to the hospital in his own car. I am pretty sure he is a Catholic - at least with a name like that he should be.

We had movies (training films),