

Put Ben Segen  
26 Inf 2nd Bn  
Co C 1st Platoon

CAMP CROFT  
SOUTH CAROLINA



Free



Miss Judith Berman  
817 West End Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

3E

#26



1  
#26

June 5<sup>6</sup>, 1943

My Dearest Judy,

It's early Sunday morning and  
inasmuch as I am permitted to  
sleep as late as I desire I find  
myself unable to sleep because  
my mind is on you, plus to  
write you a letter which  
I was unable to go this  
past week.

Realizing that I haven't  
written you any of my experiences  
during the past week I  
shall start from Monday and  
give you a review of the  
week.



We roused and shinned on Monday morning at 4:45 o'clock. Dressed, had shower than was on my way to the rifle range with full field pack.

The distance to the range was only five miles but it seemed like 50 miles with the heavy pack on my back.

We remained at the range all day practicing how to shoot the rifle.

at 5:30 o'clock - (still Monday) we when to our bivouac area, about one mile from the range.

There we set up our new quarters.

The personnel try to make us stay there as close to home as possible.



Marty and I built a hotel room for the three days we were to sleep here.

In case you don't know I'll explain —. Each soldier carries a half of a ~~pop~~ pup tent. It's a small 2x4 tent with just enough room to place one's head into it.

The beds were of the best quality. We used placed hay on the ground to soften up the ground. It didn't do much good.

Light



after ~~and~~ putting up our 4  
tent we had to clean our  
rifles. By that time it was  
getting dark. We went back  
to our hotel. A fuss must have  
gone on because we  
didn't have any light. (no lights)

I started to creep into the  
tent and my knee felt  
so right over my glasses  
and broke them. I was without  
glasses for the remainder of my  
stay at the bivouac area. That  
handicapped me when firing  
for record.

Tuesday when we woke  
up it was still dark but  
I had to get dressed anyway.  
Marty had some of my  
clothes and visa versa.

Back to the range for



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Another hectic day. In the evening we again chinked back to our quarters and after eating chow and cleaning our rifles we figured we were finished for the evening because it was almost dark. But no that night we had a night problem in which we had to build ourselves slit trenches.

It's a 2ft depth by 2ft wide and 6ft in length. It's used by each soldier as an protection against bombs and heavy shells.



When completed it should  
look like this.

1000 ME

I started to work on mine  
but I was unable to get anywhere  
with it because it was  
dark and I didn't have any  
sense of what I was doing.

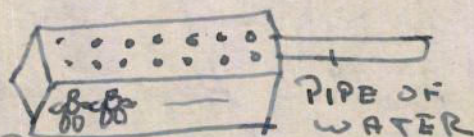
Having some practice in  
working in the dark - (On  
Saturday nights) I should have  
done a better job. That night  
we hit the hay at 11:30 dock.  
This time I say hit the hay  
I mean it.

Wednesday we began to  
shoot for record. I didn't pass,  
the passing mark is 147 in  
which I only made 142. The  
only excuse is that I didn't  
have my glasses.



By the way I almost forgot to tell you about one lovely shower we had.

It consisted of running water from a brook. The shower was built like this —



I didn't have to worry about turning the hot or cold handle because there was ~~only~~ only ~~ice~~ COLD water.

When it came to shaving we had to shave by feeling. There weren't any mirrors. Having a little practice in that I didn't do



so bad in cutting on myself.

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Thursday was about the same as the other days so we won't go into detail on that day except instead of going back to ~~it~~ to are bivouac area when we finished using the rifle range we started on are way home. Everybody was glad that, ~~that~~ it was over. We arrived in are barracks around 8:00 clock. Had to clean rifles and make are beds.

I hope I have just given you a picture of my work last week. Dear, can you see ~~me~~ now why I was unable to write you.

Friday, my legs broke out with poison oak, it's similar to poison ivy.



I suspect I got it when  
maneuvering around digging  
my slit trench. I need  
more practice in working  
in the dark. — Better hurry up  
down here.

Have you called up  
Marty's girlfriend yet? I wish  
you would find out that's  
looking. Are you coming  
down here Clarking?

Last night I went into  
town to look at the proofs.  
I took the week before.  
One of the pictures doesn't  
look too bad so they're going  
to complete that picture.



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It will take 10 day before I  
receive the pictures. At  
present I am only having two  
pictures make. One for you  
dearest and the other for my  
mother. You should did  
get a bargain on your  
large pictures. The  
two pictures will cost me  
\$ five dollars. Would you  
mind if I sent you the  
picture without the frame.  
because they seem to be  
very expensive here? They are  
asking from 1 to 5 dollars for  
a frame. Kindly ~~at~~ inform  
me as to what I should do.

after seeing my proofs  
I came back to camp last  
night. There isn't anything  
to do in the town except  
if I was with you.



Received another salami  
 yesterday from my mother. I  
 guess it was my brother's idea.  
 He must think I don't get  
 enough to eat. The salami  
 I got last week from my  
 father I had to give half of  
 it away. You don't have  
 to worry about the candy  
 you sent me, giving it  
 away. It was very kind of  
 you to send it and it's  
 just what a soldier  
 enjoys. Kindly inform my  
 brother on that and tell me  
 not to suggest Salami to  
 anyone.



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Last night was the first time in a week that I put on my cotton uniform. My buddies as well as myself noticed that our waist line decreased about four inches. We could see it when we put on our pants.

I would like to go swimming today - (Would love it if with you) but I'm afraid I won't be able to go because of my poison oak.

yesterday I received your letter of Thursday. Did you write me on Tuesday and Wednesday? You mention that you haven't heard from me in two days.

Didn't you receive my letter where I told you I probably won't be able to write while ~~on the~~ at the rifle range.



The fourth and final phase  
of my basic training, starts  
tomorrow. It looks as if it  
will be another tough week.

I was told of days like these  
so I guess I will have to  
take it just like everybody  
else. It's good for me to know  
that I have somebody waiting  
for me back home. At least I  
hope so.

It's surprising to hear that  
at the V.S.O. in Long Beach there  
are more girls than fellows.  
From where what camp do the



soldiers or sailors come from? <sup>14</sup>  
Do you enjoy yourself here. What  
do you have there for entertainment.  
You are lucky that they serve  
free coffee and cake because  
down here one would have  
to pay for it. I'm glad you  
have a V.S.O. nearby to  
keep you occupied over the  
week-ends. Do you remember  
how much much you  
were ~~a~~ worrying about how  
lonesome and that you  
would always be alone.  
Things seemed to have turned  
out satisfactory. You see  
it don't pay to worry ahead  
of time.

That hot spell you  
have or had in New York was  
down here also except here



it must have been a little hotter. I make a mistake in one of my letters when I used the word temperature instead of thermometer. It must be the heat. Good excuse anyway —

In your last letter you mention, going out this week-end, then you say 'we all decided to go'. Go where? I think you mean going to Long Beach. Have you gone swimming yet or do you just go <sup>to Long Beach</sup> for the pleasure?

I have many letters to write today. I haven't done any writing all week.



It looks as if I am  
using all my stationery on  
you. But to be frank with  
you dear, it's worth it.

~~How about it?~~

~~Don't you go, darling.~~

This letter should make  
up for all the letters I  
didn't write you last week.

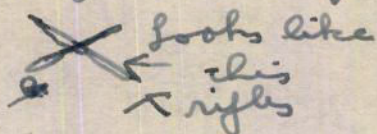
Did you receive the  
picture postcard I sent you?

What about the pilbum  
case? You haven't mentioned  
it in any of your letters  
unless you wrote me on  
Tuesday or Wednesday. I didn't  
receive those letters yet.

I was looking around  
for a pin to send you but  
I couldn't find any I like.  
Would you like a pin?  
or should we wait as usual



you come down here and  
then we can pick it out  
together. The Infantry pin is  
two rifles crossing each other.



I always wear your  
lovely ring. As proof when  
you come down here I should  
show you my hand and  
you will notice that  
where the ring is placed, ~~the~~ the  
skin is much lighter than  
the rest of the hand.



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Do you still blow me  
a kiss every night at 10 o'clock.  
Or have you forgotten? What  
do you do if you are in a  
crowd of people at the time?

I'm not going to close  
this letter now cause I'll  
wait until the mail clerk  
brings the mail. maybe I'll  
have something else to  
write then.

I love you with —  
Juh vous aim, juh vous a door,  
kuk wooley vous encore?

It's French meaning —

I love you, I adore you,  
what more do you want?

Just back from mail  
call and again I'm surprised  
I didn't hear from you.



For some reason I can't make it be out. Its so difficult for me to believe that you are getting ~~tired~~ of writing to me every day.

Now Judy if there is something wrong or if you should have changed your mind about me or whatever the reason may be I ~~would~~ would appreciate it very much if you would be very frank with me and tell me what is on your mind concerning me.

If you wrote me on Friday then I would have received your letter today.



I received a letter from my <sup>20</sup>  
brother that was mailed on  
Saturday morning.

What is the matter?

I feel very bad about  
this situation and I do  
hope I am wrong in  
thinking you have stopped  
writing me every day.

If you have stopped  
writing everyday I don't  
want you to start in  
again because of what  
I'm saying.

If you feel that  
way then let it be.

I know I look  
forward in writing you  
each and every day.

Love, as always, ~~xxx~~

B  
ew