

CAMP HANCOCK.

Augusta, Ga.

December 20th, 1917

My Dear Mother and Dad;

Your very kind and thoughtful letter received. Also all your packages. They are all fine and in good condition. I am very sorry to say that the cigars Grandad sent me were all broken and crumbled. There were only five fit to smoke. I suppose being put in a cigar box too large they got jarred about and broke all of them. The things you sent me, I was delighted with. Especially the kit. I have arranged it on the wall and have my stuff all arranged. The brush and mirror are just the stuff and I can hardly tell you how I appreciate all the things received. The pipe is a beauty and just exactly what I wanted.

Your letter and cards were very sweet and loving. I am trying my level best to keep up hope and courage to get my furlough. It is almost impossible to imagine how hard it is to get a furlough, when there are perhaps 75 or 150 men from my own company who are trying for the same thing as I am. It not only makes it very hard, but the under officers are very unreliable and favor men whom they know. I will not be satisfied or assured I got it till it is in my hands and signed by the Colonel, I will get one, there is no doubt, but if I get one in the next few days or 2 weeks I will be lucky. You see some of the fellows who have been in the service longer than me, are getting the preference. So I will just have to be patient and wait till they are square enough to put the furlough through. I am doing my best, on this end of the line so that is all can be done.

Today I received a book from Mrs. Stratton, the friend of Mrs. Householder. Title was "When a Man Is a Man" Her address is 2106 Green St. Mrs. M. E. Stratton.

I am now going to close. If I receive the furlough, will wire at once.

Lovingly,
Howard.