

CAMP HANCOCK

Augusta, Ga.

December 2nd, 1917

Dear Mother and Dad;

Our target practice was put off on Friday on account of bad grounds. Yesterday we went out. got up at 5.45 had breakfast at 6.15 and started for the range at 6.45. It is a very good 5 miles from Camp and at the pace we went it was not long before we reached it. Of course we did not stay for the three days Monday we got out again. Our company had to take the first turn in the target buttes which ment working the targets for the other companies while they shot. I, as a bugler was orderly to the Lieutenant Colonel and blew all the calls for the day. Later in the day I had a chance to shoot a rifle in the 200 yd range. They begin at 100 yds. and go right up to 1000 yds. Each man has to qualify for the next move, or else he has to stay on that range till he is good enough to move higher. Our company not shooting I was disappointed because I wanted to shoot. They allow each man 10 shots for every range. On the 200 yd. range one of my various and many friends slipped me four shots and his rifle and said go ahead see what you can do. The score is 10 shots with a score of a possible 50. Fifty being a perfect score. The target is arranged 5, Bullseye, 4, 3 and miss. After you shoot the target drops and is recorded and a sign put up telling your mark.

For the first shot I ever made with a rifle, at 200 yds. I made 16 out of 20. A three a four A Bullseye and a four which would qualify me for the 300 yd. range. This all being slow firing. When I pulled the trigger I didn't know it was going to go off but it nearly knocked my face off. The next three shots I prepared and I never even noticed the jar. You can tell by my shots. On monday I will get altogether 35 shots. If I can get a record of my shooting will let you know. The shooting looked very easy, but when I gripped the rifle and looked along the sights the bullseye looked like a small pea to me and I thought the gun was roving all over the skyline, but I hung to it and kept it steady then pulled the trigger and it was all over.

Now I have let my letters go for several days and now have about eight so am going to close The candy I just finished and everything in the box was fine. Ate the Hersheys on the range for dinner being minus something to eat.

With love,
Howard.