

CAMP HANCOCK

Augusta, Ga.

March 24th, 1918.

Dear Mother and Dad;

Friday night rather afternoon we started out with full packs and equipment for a three day hike. We went to the place they called the Combat Range. Here each company must solve a musketry problem, being all the while under fire from another force concealed in trenches. It certainly was wonderful and I would like to describe it to you. We were expressly forbidden to either write or discuss to other companies what took place. Every company in G. H. must go through this I can only state, that Dutch and I were with the Capt in all the time and saw the entire problem carried out, through our field glasses. The glasses are wonderful and are of great help to me in my work. I now have to attend the school for non-commissioned officers to learn range estimating and distributing of fire. While out Friday we stayed in our dog tents two fellows sleeping together, Dutch and I of course. Believe me his is a good bunkie and we get along fine together. We also had our meals on the ground and slept on the ground. I was very tired and slept like a rock all night feeling fresh and good in the morning when we got up at 5.45 I had stayed up the night before and blew tattoo at 9.00 and Taps at 9.30. The first Sargent asked me if I would go around and see if everybody was quite. Believe me they were too tired to fool away precious time.

Last night we were paid and of course the pressure is relieved I got the box Saturday thank Dad very much for the cigars and the cake was fine. Today we were issued, not me, the new Enfield 5 shot rifle an improvement on the 1906. Springfield. They are beauties. I will not get one till I go across to the other side.

This morning it is rather cold but I went to church being Palm Sunday. Next Sunday I am going to go to Communion in St. Pauls Episcopal Church.

Hope everybody spends a happy Easter and am sorry I can't share it, with you.

Love to all and tell Aunt Florie I received her Easter Card, it was a beauty. As ever,

Lovingly,

Howard