Dear Mother and Dad;

Received your letter and box together last night. The very time, at which I wanted it most and it would do the most good. I cannot tell you how pleased I was with everything in it. When I saw that box of cigars from my old friend Mr. Ryle I could have howled for joy. They were the very kind I like so much. Bold's are a 6½ cigar that cannot be beaten and I have formed an appetite for them which speaks well for the Babrow Bros, who make them. Everything in the box was O.K. both fresh and well kept. The fruit is delicious and I am saving the Hershey bars for when I go out to the range in case I miss a meal. I thank you very much for the pipe tobacco and the chewing gum also the candy and cake. Everything suited my taste and even though I cannot be home, I certainly am cheered a whole lot by the grand remembrance which you sent me.

So far I do not believe we are going to the Rifle range on Friday but are going to wait till Monday morning and then stay there till Wednesday night.

Today it is raining and has been raining nearly all night. We had a fine breakfast. We were supposed to have Ham and Eggs, but the eggs did not come and we had Ham and boiled potatoes, Bread and coffee. One of the men at our table had a huge box of cinnamon buns sent him so he very kindly gave us each a good size piece. Think of it ham and cinnamon buns for breakfast some treat I'd say. Last night the Turkeys were sent to the field bakery to be cooked from there we will receive them for today's dinner. We are to have a great dinner so I understand and I am going to hold off the letter so as I can tell you what we had.

Yesterday every man was put through an examination to see if he was fit to go on the Rifle Range. The exam consisted of aiming sighting and loading. Standing, sitting and prone, shooting. We have to fire four shots in 30 seconds lying down, with a range of 200 yards. I am very anxious to try my skill on the range.

I suppose my speaking about a rifle surprises you but every man, who goes to Europe has to carry a rifle even though he is an officer or bugler or teamster. Later on I will be given a pistol target practice which I know I will like. Even though I never have drilled with a rifle I am going to do my best to make a good score, when I come back will tell you all about it and also the scores.
I am now going to leave off till after dinner so as I can write the menu.

I will write Mr. Ryle a letter of thanks to-day. This morning a Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Harper came down to see me who is a friend of Mrs. Stratten. I have forgotten her name but if I think of it in the meantime will fill it in. She is a sister or something to Mrs. Householder of Zion Church (am I right?)

To-day for dinner we had, Turkey and mashed potatoes, peas, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, cocoa, bread nuts, bananas, oranges, mince pie and cigarettes. Some food I am so full now I will have to close my letter, with love,

Howard

Please thank Grandma and Grandad for the cards also Aunt Ethel and thanks Dear Dad for yours.
P. S. Had my hair cut today. I am sorry to hear that about Dutch, but am not surprised.