

BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN

UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES

March 30, 1943

Dear Miss McGlynn,

I started back to college today - in fact as I write this I am in the library now - from what the upperclassmen tell us we won't have much chance to do any letter writing later - so I thought I would get this off to let you know - just what the set up is down here.

We fall out on the double, for roll-call at 5:45 A.M. - after roll-call we go back to our rooms to make up the beds etc- at about 6:30 we fall out for breakfast. After breakfast we march back to our rooms pick up our books and we are ready to go.

We march to and fro classes in groups called flights- everyone that has math at 7:30 falls into flight one - those having English into Flight 2 etc - classes last for fifty minutes- when we are dismissed from class we march back to our barracks

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fall out of the flight we are in and "peel off" with another flight - between the times of 9:30-10:30 the whole group drills on the athletic field - we are free from 11:30-1:30- for lunch etc. Right now I have only three classes - math, geog. and physical ed - we take each subject for a limited time and then our program is shifted and we take other courses - Right now I am in what is called Flight 19 (study hours) - all men who do not have classes during an hour fall into flight 19 -

From what I gather from the upperclassmen we are kept right on our toes - if marks (that the dean turns in to our C.O. each week) are low we are confirmed to the grounds on weekends - otherwise our weekends are free - that is if we haven't too many "giggs" - a "gigg" is an infraction of a military rule and one may be had for various reasons

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Namely - being late for formation, shoes not shined, not being clean shaving, a button left unbuttoned - talking in ranks etc - to "giggs" keeps you in all day Sat. - three "giggs" the whole weekend. -

By the way the text that we are using for history is "The World Since 1914" Bennis [Frank L. Bennis] - I haven't history right now so I know little about the book. Speaking of books - all out texts, paper, notebooks, ink, pens, pencils etc are furnished us free - so that we have no expenses on that score -

That's about all for now except for the fact that you should step in and listen to the different types of accents down here - we have men from New Jersey, N.Y. Brooklyn, Ohio, VA, and on top of it all - the southern drawl with which we are greeted

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by all these Alabama folks - They really are a swell group of people and go out of their way to make things pleasant for us-

Needless to say the color line is sharply drawn here - was speaking to a local boy yesterday and we told him that negroes were allowed to go to the same schools and classes as white up north - he was really horrified I wish you could have heard the way he expressed it - it sure was funny.

Hope you are keeping my classmates on the beam. How are those contract assignments coming along? They must be pretty much along -

Sincerely,
John Capone