

Monday Mar 14 Will mail this Thursday morning

Dear Mom and Dad.

Today is the first day of AIT. There was compass class all morning with ten minute breaks. The company A being not as large so there is better and more chow. Just received some possible bad news. If Vietnam keeps getting worse they will start sending over units from the 4th division. September on will be our months of reckoning.

There are post privileges on weekends and weekend passes. On weekdays we can sign out for PX, donut shop, haircuts etc. Got the letter today.

This afternoon we had map class. Afterwards there was an hour of marching. Finally there was PT. and it rained all through it so we got wet. We are all done at 4:30 with the exception of days, we have a night compass course.

There will be one week in Yakima in which we will fire heavy weapons. Sabio and I will have the only 90 mm in the company. The other platoon has 106's and mortars.

Send some fancy fruit lifesavers sometime in the near future. I use them up fast during the day mainly by giving some each time I have one.

Tuesday. Had one map reading class. We had some classes outside and it was very windy and rain so we got wet. There were more marching and PT classes.

Got my pictures, they did not develop two. I can't see why. They came out nice. The cost is still high. \$4.25 for the pictures.

Wednesday we have a compass course and night compass course. This afternoon we have a 3-mile course through the woods. Tonight we take it again. Supper will be out in the field.

The supply room would not take our weapons until they were so clean that they would pass any inspection. Lots of guys took them down several times before they were accepted. Also got some new wall locker so there is now a place to put extra stuff. They came broken apart so we spent a few hours last evening assembling them.

Will mail this now. And tell you about Wednesday in the next letter.

Ron

Thursday Mar. 16th #3

Dear Mom and Dad;

Didn't get in until 9:30 last night but here is what happened? Wednesday we got on the buses which took us a short way into the wilderness near the artillery range. We had a map reading classes in the field and located our position by the lay of the land.

We then moved to other places to do the same. I saw two deer which were not scared by our presence. Took a picture of one. They were about 100 yards away. Had lunch in the field while the artillery shot off. Then, we took buses and went a long way to the east for our 3-mile compass course. We worked in groups of four.

I was very much surprised and so was a lot of guys to see horses in this king sized pasture of a compass course. Actually in this area, the local ranchers lease the land and turn loose their live stock over a large area of the post that is used as driving courses for trucks and tanks. The artillery area and the main post are fenced and roads have pipe gratings to keep them out of the main post and danger areas. The horses kept quite a distance from us as they are probably half wild. There are cattle loose as well.

The course was 3 miles long. The first bearing was 1000 yards long and we got off 50 yards. The rest we were on the target. Had supper then after it got dark, we headed back. Only missed one by 90 yards. But that was because we had to walk a mile to the last stake and the compass was a degree off.

Got back here at 9:30. They let us sleep till 6:00 A.M. today. This morning was communication classes which we operated some portable radio's and clothing issue and the rest of the morning off.

Ron

PS Here are some photo's and rifle patches.

Saturday, March 28th #4

Dear Mom and Dad

All day yesterday was rain and today is about as bad with the temperature in the 40's. Got two letters today. To answer a question, the 90 mm is carried. It weights 35 lbs. Weapon squads travel in a vehicle so they don't have to carry heavy weapons very far. It has a breach lock as it uses a firing pin yet the breach had holes to let the projectile fire like a rocket. Therefore, there is no recoil. It can knock out any known tank, as easily as an m 14 can pick off a man giving it a much longer range then a bazooka. One can use the built in tripod or fire it from the shoulder. If one were standing at the mailbox at home, he could destroy a tank on Miller Rd. by firing it much like a rifle. Headquarters platoon has a couple of guys on 106's. They are heavier and are mounted on a jeep.

There was a weapons demonstration today. They fired machine guns and grenade launchers. They also fired two kinds of mortars. The small one then shot one shell at a very steep angle about 8 degrees. It took one minute for it to come down and hit on target near by. The large one was fired on a 60-degree angle. I could see the shell for about 15 seconds in flight. In about 30 seconds, it hit a target 2 miles away.

We cannot fire 90 or 106's here so we will go to Yakima in June to shoot them there. Instead of a m14 rifle, we will have 45 pistols.

There was a full field inspection today at 7 A.M.. As a result we were up till after midnight to prepare for it as they gave us no time during the day. We slept in sleeping bags. The blankey blanks woke us up at 4:00 A.M., ate chow at 5AM. By volunteering for a job at the right time I got out of the standing outside part of it. I just buffed the floor then took some pictures of the inspection. Right now it is 3:30 P.M.. Half of the guys are gone, but the other half are sound asleep a few writings.

The Demonstration area has a good view of the mountain range. It was too cloudy for pictures and I was out of film. Got flash cubes. Will send one home as soon as I can find a post office.

Sunday. Guess what the weather is? It's 38 degrees and snowing. Went to church today. The service started at 11 A.M.. Used my civilian clothes. Most of the guys did this too. In that packages could you send my sweater and oxblood shoes and polish? The polish is in my dresser shelf. I have a locker for extra stuff now. Any other clothes I wasn't I will buy.

Soon as there is a nice Sunday I am going to walk around the post. Today's weather is cold and 100% chance of rain or snow. And that is what it is doing again. Sent in some pictures, They should be ready Tuesday. Here are three good pictures. Send them back before June.

Ron

21 March 1966 #5

Dear Mom and Dad,

Guess what I did today? I fired a Bazooka, like the one on Combat used to blow up a machine gun nest. We all fired dummy rounds. That is they contained a live rocket, but an empty warhead. I shot it at a car tire 300 ft away. It hit on foot below it. The rocket goes off with quite a bang. The bazooka weights only 13 lbs. as it is aluminum. The shell as a rocket with a war head. The high explosive marker has 2 lbs. of powder which is shaped so that when it explodes its force is constructed in one spot. It can therefore blast a hole through 11 inches of steel.

The 90 mm is replacing this weapon as its war head is more powerful and will not glance off if it hits at an angle.

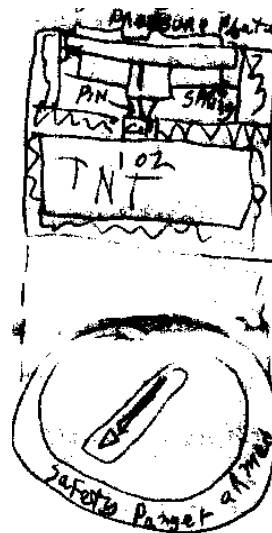
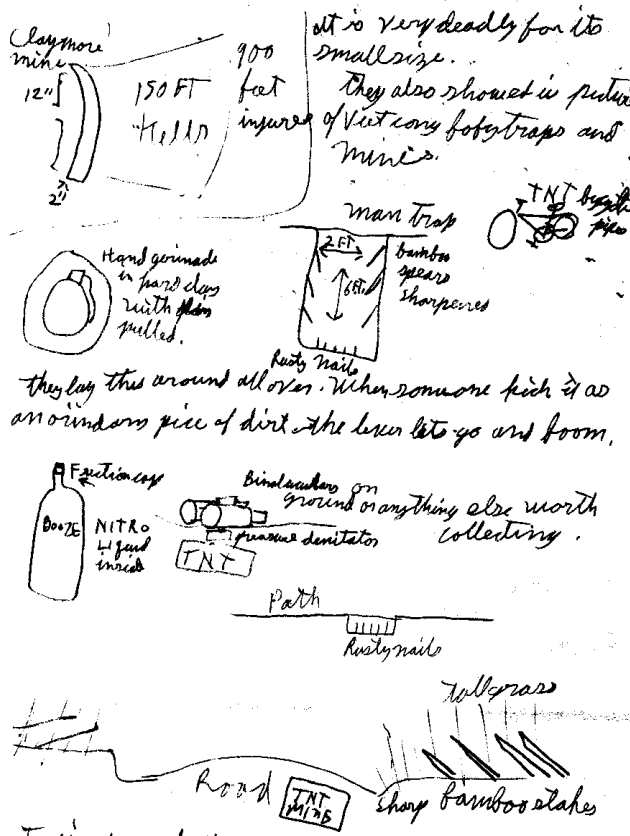
There is a new antitank weapon out now. It is a one shot disposable bazooka which weighs 5 lbs. It looks like a toy bazooka, as it has a telescope tube flip out sights. It is made of thin aluminum for one half and fibre board for the rest of the barrel. It is a complete bazooka but is designed to be fired once. Then thrown away. Although the war head is smaller, it will still blast through 11 inches of armor. I got a picture of one. It's been out since 1962.

Tuesday went to the M79 range for two hours of class. Then, each one of us fired two shots from the M79 or grenade launcher. This weapon has a 14 inch long barrel about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. It can accurately shoot a grenade more than 300 yards. I did just that. It looks like a sawed off shotgun. And loads like one. For the size of the shell there is little kick as the muzzle velocity is only 280 ft per sec. I can see the bullet in flight. Spent the afternoon down the motor pool looking over the armored personal carriers. I got KP tomorrow. Will mail my next letter Sunday.

Ron

PS Here are some pictures you can keep.

Sketches from next letter.



Dear Mom and Dad, started March 25,66 #6

Had KP Wednesday and spent half of that afternoon scraping wax off the floor with a butcher knife. Got up at 4 AM for KP duty. I got done at 7 PM. Polished my boots and went to bed. Watched combat on TV Tuesday night. Was watching Wendy and Me last night on TV at 7 PM.

Yesterday was first aid classes. We put splints on each other and tied the over size bandages as well. We also practice various carries.

Got a letter from home that said . I may go to Yakima in April for 2 weeks. the whole company will go in June. So that means that I will go twice. Will let you know as soon as I get a definite date. We get paid next Thursday.

Took two mountain pictures at sunset in Black and white from the hill near our barracks. They are in the picture. Took the last two today. Bought some color film last night. It just came in.

Spring arrived Tuesday. The sun came out and melted the snow. The temperature is in the 60's again and there hasn't been any clouds for the past three days. A good weekend is forecast. Unfortunately the group that had KP Wednesday has it Sunday. So there goes my weekend.

Today we had land mine warfare classes. We saw the different kinds of mines. Then we went out to an area and planted some practice mines. They use the fuses only so if someone steps on them, only the fuse goes off.

Charlie company was out yesterday. They had to search for an hour for a mine by probing with bayonets. It was one they lost. There were two casualties yesterday from there. One stupid kid sat down on a mine and set off the fuse. He got his rear end burnt. Many set off hidden booby-traps when they dig up mines. Our sergeant got burnt on his hands and face, this also singed his eye brows and lashes when he tried to burn some powder. When it didn't go off, he bent down to find out why? Then it went off in his face.

Everything went OK with us. Nobody got hurt in our company. Some baby traps were set off but we all found the mines.

This is the actual size of one mine. It has an ounce of powder and is made of plastic. It's designed to injure and will blow off a hand or foot.

There is also a claymore mine. That is used in Vietnam, It is set off by an electric charge. It has one side aimed at the enemy. This side is a mass of pieces of metal that act like a shot gun blast. It will kill anyone 150 ft or closer in front of it and injure up to 900 ft away from the front.

It is very deadly for its size. They also showed in pictures of Viet cong booby-traps and mines.

They lay this around all over. When someone kicks it as an ordinary piece of dirt the lever lets go and boom. Anything thrown away they can make a booby trap from it.

Saturday, March 26th. Went to the rifle range today with automatic weapons. We had the M14 modified. This is a m14 with regular barrel and trigger, only it has a straight line wood stock and a selector switch to fire either one shot at a time or like a machine gun. We also shot it John Wayne style. That is from the hip. We spent all day out there.

Got a letter today dated 25th with the trip on it. Today's weather is clear and warm.

Ron

Sunday, March 29th #7

Dear Mom and Dad

Did KP all day till 5 P.M.. Due to the different scheduling on Sunday I didn't have to get up until six a.m. the morning on KP went like it normally does but since dinner and supper is combined there is no food preparing in the afternoon. The head cook went home. The two assistant cooks went into the office and fell asleep. All afternoon. So the KP's were in charge of the kitchen. Since I was handyman, I watched the chow line to make sure no one piled on the food excessively. The other guys did their jobs such as dishes and dining room. There was only two or three eating at once all afternoon after the first rush. Some of the KP turned two legged rats and raided the store room for goodies. They found a jar of maricono cherries which I never knew existed. The only other thing they had that could be raided were apples or what was on the chow line. Other days the oranges and banana disappeared or if there around packages of fig newton bars.

I got an empty metal ammo box. We are allowed to keep them. When I get a date to come home, I'll get some of them, plastic liners used to store and dispense milk. They throw them away.

Monday, March 28

Got our 90 MM recoilless rifle today. It weights 35 lbs. They showed us how to tear em apart and put them together again. This afternoon we went to a firing range. We used a special device that looks like a shell normally fired in the 90mm. so we shot that today at targets to zero in on our weapons. It makes a bang much louder then the m14.

I will be going to Yakima for a few days in order to fire live ammo in the 90. will leave Monday, April 4th and come back Friday.

Tuesday went back out to range 86 today. Zeroed our weapons then we shot at targets for record fire. We also shot at moving targets. I got some bull's-eye.

Am listening to the Clay, Shavello fights on the radio now. 20 min. till 9:00 p.m. Clay wins by decision.

Got the letter from Chicago and got one from xxxxxx.

Ron

#8

Dear Mom and Dad

Well the rain came back today. We worked on the 106 recoilless rifle. I will qualify on both. They will then place us on which weapon we do the best on. The 106 weights 285 lbs. and the mount 125 lbs. 4 men can load and unload it in a few seconds from a jeep like the 90mm. It has no recoil but twice the range and a warhead twice as powerful. It uses a 50-caliber rifle as a spotting aid. It will do as much damage as the big gun on a tank.

We go to Yakima Monday and come back Friday. It will be a convoy in 2 1/2 ton trucks. The poor drivers of the 106's will have to drive the 106 jeeps. With no roof, this will be like a convertible with the top down. They'll freeze in the mountains. It'll probably take all day as the top speed of the jeep is 50 m.p.h. and the trucks 55 m.p.h. that is going to be rough on some new jeeps we have with only 20 miles on the odometer. Rode on one today. They got a nice ride like a good car. The 2 1/2 ton feels like they have no springs.

Got a letter from home.

Thursday Got paid \$96.00. the PX is already over crowded with guys blowing their pay. Hardly anyone here. Got a haircut last night. The place was almost empty, so was in there only 15 min. Also, got my pictures last night.

We did some sighting and drill practice today on the 106s. The weather was clear and cool today. Friday well there are some guys broke again. They were gambling and blew their pay checks. Some drank a lot. Many will probably blow it this weekend when they go out on a pass. I may go next weekend but not to Seattle or Tacoma. There is a town within walking distance on my map named Roy. I may go there for the day. It's located at the back gate of the fort. If not, I can always take a bus to Tacoma for the day.

Today was practice for parade, which was rained out. It was a ceremony for a change of command. Our Lt. Colonel Fuller was replaced by Lt. Colonel Clark. The ceremony was held inside the theater.

Sat called home. I guess you know what I did. I got a one day pass. It is good from 12 noon Sat to 12 midnight Sunday. I decided that I better take it as the whole platoon got one. One gets a pass in AIT only if the company commander gives them out. The weather was nice today so I took it.

Visited Roy.

I bought some goodies at the store and a can of pop. They are about the same price at home. There is lots of western clothing in this store.

The walk there is 7 miles. I got a ride back with a Sergeant that was heading back to the base. It's hard to realize that I walked so far. Left Roy at 4:50 got here at 5:20

Please send my ox blood shoes and polish. These dress shoes are hard on the feet. Also, we should have civilian shoes with our civ. clothes.

I was wondering why there were quite a few record players showing up. PX 11 has good ones at \$59.00 and a stereo at that. Also a cheap one at \$38.00 they have a better selection of Clothing as well.

Sunday, went back to Roy for the day. Hitched a ride with no trouble both ways. Got a ride with a GI who was going to Rainier and a ride back with some local residents that were going through Ft. Lewis.

On the other side of Roy there is a radio antenna, a fire department. New post office. Do you know what a mule deer looks like? It is dark brown with a white rump. I got a picture of one only 15 feet away from me.

It was a beautiful day today. The sky was the clearest I've seen it so I got some excellent mountain pictures and turned in a roll of color film.

Will close now and write from Yakima.

Ron

PS Last night some of the guys came in at 1:00 A.M. stoned drunk. One broke his wrist in a fight. It should be wild around midnight tonight.

Monday 4 April. 1966

Dear Mom and Dad

Today I made the trip to Yakima. Our group got together at 6:00 a.m. and went down to the first check point. We didn't leave the main post until 8:00 a.m. There are sure some nice farms near Tacoma and Seattle. The corn and other crops are already in. We took US 10 that goes east of Seattle. Between the town of North Bend and Hyuk the road is all up hill and runs in the valley all the way. We gain 1,500 feet in ten miles. There are steep mountains on each side. In Snoqualmie Pass, the ski areas are going full blast. There is 10 ft of snow on the ground from there until we reached Cle Elum. The land is mountainous with redwood and white pine. When we reached Ellensburg the hills are prairie and from there to Thrall is like Saginaw Valley. Highway 97 follows the Yakima river. From Thrall on the land becomes mountainous. With what looks like giant sand dunes made of clay. They are huge Lava hills more than 2000 ft high covered with grass and sagebrush. And are very steep. In this area are horse and cattle ranches. With land covering many square miles. The Yakima flats are also leased.

Got a lot of colored pictures of the area. And the view on the way up. Tuesday. We got up at 4am ate chow at 4:30 and did little till 6:30. then we loaded up on trucks and went 5 miles up hill to a firing range. A terrific view like out of a plane when we look at the town of Yakima. This afternoon we went way back about 25 miles 20 of it real dusty roads. It was all uphill. Still, we were not at the highest part of the valley. The ridge was still 1000 ft. higher then the valley floor.

Just got mail.

Each one of us fired three high explosives anti tank rounds from the 70 at three old armored personal tanks. The whole ground seemed to jump when one is fired. There are big holes in the ground from the back blast. And we got covered with dirt every time we fired. By the end of the day those APC's were blasted to pieces.

It is quite cold in the morning but by 11:00 a.m. the coats are off. Tuesday we just fired the 50mm.

I sent a bunch of pictures without explanations of what they were. There is one of the Olympia Mts. With the ball diamond and water tower. It was taken against the sun. There is Mt. Rainier showing train fire seven tower. Also, two snow pictures. Also, the LAW lightweight anti tanks weapons. This is a miniature bazooka that is used once then thrown away. It is aluminum and fibre board. Also, Mt. Rainier from the grenade gun range.

Friday a beautiful day. We all got sunburned. Today we shot the 106 with HEAT round at old tanks. Paper targets and even a patch of snow 1,500 yards off. The tanks 300 yds., the paper targets up to 1100 yards. The back blast picks up a shock wave of dust 50 ft on each side.

I know why we can't fire them at Ft. Lewis. Their range is too small, as the shells will sometimes bounce like a stone on water. They used to use Ft. Lewis range till one day one round skipped over the hill and destroyed some civilians' buildings in Roy. We saw them bounce over hills here.

Friday Back from Yakima. Here are three color pictures. I was nice in Yakima but once over the pass it was cloudy and cold. Got the package and one letter.

Ron

Saturday #10

Dear Mom and Dad

Today it rained all morning. There were classes and exercises on squad movement tactics. We will get 52 hours of this, this coming week. There was also a test on M60 machine guns but I didn't take it. While I was gone, the other guys had to qualify on machine guns and automatic rifle. They shot up a truck load of ammo. While I was in Yakima, I shot up three 90 mm and 1,106 rounds however they cost about \$200 total, the 90's being \$38 and the 106 about \$87.



Just washed a field jacket in our old beat up automatic machine. It leaks like mad and the spin-dry pounds off balance. Also, the water shut off in the machine doesn't work. However, It does take some of the dirt out.

I found a post office that is open after duty hours. I will mail a package this week. It will contain flash bulbs, color film and newspaper. Also a real good metal box that is used to carry ammo but they throw them away. Before I went to church today, I walked over to main Post. There is a commissary. A large PX, sport store. A huge US army clothing store, a bank and many other stores.

The church was filled to capacity today. And Catholics mass to over flowing. The weather was rather bad. So it is keeping me near the building. I will buy a set of civ. clothes so I can send what I have to the laundry.

The PX at Yakima had 10 cent Payday candy bars. It also had a good variety of stuff, even bicycles. Our PX no nine had the instamatic 104 for sale at \$13.00. It also has the swinger Polaroid at \$17.00.

I didn't get much chance to write last week. That's why the long span between letters.

I'll get a bicycle for use around here. They are about half-price of those at home. At least at the PX in Yakima.

Here are some pictures of Roy and the base. Tuesday I'll send pictures of Yakima, pictures and one of a mule deer. The kid I let borrow my negatives of the plane pictures got some better copies then the original were. Sergeant Moore had some more black and white prints, I loaned him made up. Will write soon,

Ron

Dear Mom and Dad Thursday 14th April #12

When we went to range 22, we went over the hill, that is, the trucks carrying us went outside the post for quite a ways on the back roads. Went through the town of Roy. Mc Kenna and Yelm. It rained and snowed Tuesday. Wednesday we were out on another firing range of squad defense tactics. We came back at 10:30 p.m.. they were nice to us today. We only got up at 5:00 A.M. instead of 4:00 A.M.. Went back to range 22. We had more squad attack movements with live ammo. And also had loading and unloading on the APC. While we were to go back on trucks, there wasn't enough room as I rode in an armored personal carrier. We traveled about 40 mph. on gravel roads. The ride is smooth but very noisy. If you can imagine the racket made by tank threads at that speed. We went through the Nasqually river. There was one spot we floated across. They will float. There has been a lot of new equipment starting to show up lately. The company is going to get some transistorized PRC 25 radios. These still use the obsolete 6' and 10's. they are really called PRC radio's instead of what we named them. This is because they are radio's that use tubes, costs the taxpayer's \$210 and \$600 and use a monster battery. That is good for only 20 hours. Also, they have a range of one mile and five miles. The PRC 25's have a much greater range.

Last week I saw some new helicopters. They are powered by fan jet engines, with power for the rotor taken from a turbine. Also there are new trucks that burn gasoline, kerosene and diesel and two M-16 showed up one day. The M-165 belonged to another unit.

The schedule for next week is going to be rotten. It will include two night training classes. Tuesday and Wednesday, Tuesday will end at 1AM Wednesdays and Wednesdays at 11:30, I may miss mailing a letter that week.

Saturday we had proficiency tests. I goofed on a compass reading and lost 15 points. Still I got 181 out of a possible 200 total.

Then the bad news hit us. We are restricted to the company area. This was the result of dirty machine guns. So we spent the afternoon cleaning weapons. In the evening, I went to PX 11 and bought a set of civilian clothes. I bought a pair of socks, a pegged pants and a sports shirt. Their styles are very limited. If I buy any more clothes, it will be in town where there is more selection or maybe the main post. The weather today is very clear. Saw Mt. Adams from the window, This is the first time I've seen it from here.

Got a letter today with three color pictures, they are nice.

Selenburger broke his foot last week. So he is pretty much out of the action for a while. As his foot is in a cast and he stays near the barracks, while the rest of us are in the field.

Sunday called home. Also, went to church today.

Will close now so I can mail this. I have stamps now as I bought a book at the post office.

Ron

PS. I'm going to buy a scrap book for pictures. Here are your pictures. They are nice.

Tuesday #12

Dear Mom and Dad,

Here are some xxxxx and three pictures of Yakima. I mailed a package yesterday. It cost \$1.92 as it was quite heavy. It rained hard all day. Everybody got soaked. We were out all day. The noon chow was lousy. There were also quite a few Generals including Gen. Richardson and a few other 4, 3, 2, and one star generals observing training. They didn't stay long.

They are keeping us too busy this week. We are going to be out till 10:30 P.M. tomorrow. We get up at 4:00 A.M.. We were out late today as well.

I will mail this now and write more about Tuesday in another letter.

Ron

Monday, April 18th #13

Dear Mom and Dad,

Today I had KP all day. I got two letters today.

Well, the rumors really get going today. There is talk of shipping out after AIT. This came from the 1st Sergeant. If this is so I will come home in three weeks for a 2-week leave. This they would give us. As of yet it is not on paper. So it is just a rumor. There are three more new helicopters. They flew around all day today in formation.

Those are very good pictures of Chicago. Tuesday I spent all day from 7AM till 10PM out in the field. It was a nice clear day. We shot at targets using the pointing technique. Then we had a night type assault come during the daylight hours. I took on M14A1 through the assault. I had five clips of 10 rounds each of live ammo. I shot the weapon John Wayne style. It really throws a lot of lead.

At night we did both courses again. I used just an M14. We had all tracer ammo. This really made the fireworks and also started some fires in the pine trees. If it ever gets very dry in the summer they can't use tracers as there are pine forests too close to the range.

Today Wednesday the rain came back. We got up at 7 AM and had the morning easy. In the afternoon we went to the west end of the post, where the range horses are loose. Didn't see any as we scared them off with APC and blank ammo. We made assaults on a hill that had defenders and ambushes. I was ammo bearer for several Sergeants, who rode on the roof and hood of a jeep and pulled a surprise counter ambush. We then went around the back of the hill and captured several dozen would be ambush attackers.

We also had a night assault by sneaking up as close as possible. There were all kinds of trip wires set. I got back at 11:00 p.m.. We didn't get to bed until 12:00 p.m. and later.

Guess What? We got up at 5:00 a.m. or that is got half way up. Everybody is dead tired. There will be a lot of sleeping in classes today. This really snows one under, when there are several nights in a row of 7,6,5 or fewer hours of sleep. Especially when our working day ends up to 12,14,18 hours long. It had been hard to find time to write this week and even harder to go to any place that is open.

We went to the theater for some classes today. The sergeants were more than busy keeping guys' awake. Got plague shots today. Also got three letters,

Ron

Friday, April 22 #14

Dear Mom and Dad

Got a nice letter from home today dated 21st. It must be an early spring if the temperature is in the 60's and

Finally found out what the 11H10 are suppose to know. It is not just operating 90 or 109 mm, It is the speciality of destroying all armored vehicles by any means. This means I will get training in making bombs, blowing up bridges, planting mines, building tank traps, etc. Some tanks can be stopped with an armor piercing M-14 bullets or most Soviet tanks with a tracer in their exterior fuel tanks. Just some smoke and machine gun fire will put a tank out of action. There is also a small rocket that some guys are specializing in. It is a missile steered by a copper wire that unwinds in flight. It will fly a mile and a half and can be guided in by this wire.

Tomorrow we will build a tank trap. Monday we have to set up 90 and 106 positions and camouflage them. There will be helicopters maneuvers for the rest of Wednesday. If we get them, I don't know but I'll try to get pictures of it. Only two more weeks of AIT and it will be individual training instead of infantry.

Had C rations for noon today and it was lousy, all the food was stale.

Yesterday everybody got plague shots, even the Sergeants and Lts. They were given to us by basic medical trainees. They are wicked with the needle. But still knew how to stick it in half an inch without you feeling it. Still, the shots made some feel terrible. This morning it didn't bother me although I was very tired this morning, and got up 10 minutes late. Still I was the first one out of bed.

It is going to be lousy for the M-14 toters, they have got three nights of patrolling in a row. We will be coming in at 4:30 while they drag in at 10:00 P.M. Sunday will be day light saving time change. The hour will be advanced, so Sunday will be one hour longer. Will mail this with some more pictures now.

Ron

PS I got a scrap book to put photos in.

Letter #15 is missing April 25th #16 Pictures all sent home.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Monday evening, It is nice and quiet today as only the 11 H's are off at 5:00 P.M.. The other guys will be out till midnight on night patrol. they will not like the fact that everybody gets up at 5 Am tomorrow.

Got a letter today from home dated Saturday. Last night was fairly quiet as the drunks are broke and many went to bed early as other kept up the noise till 11:00 P.M.

They sell very good canned pop at the PX. The name is White Rock and the flavors such as orange, grape, black cherry, are very natural and good. The root beer is like A&W.

Today we put in 90 and 106 emplacement. this went digging foxholes for the 90 and a big drive in hole for the 106 jeep. The ground is the worlds worst. Mostly hard rock that caves in after it is dug. With an entrenching tool, it takes all day to pick away at. After we were dug in and scared off the cattle, there were some war games. We got back here at 4:30. With the daylight saving time it is still sunny at 8:00 P.M.

I got the bicycle in the Sergeants room. The Lt doesn't know yet.

Tuesday, Got some extra C ration. I will not eat it but send it home untouched. It is one of the worst ones they make next to the chopped ham and eggs. The ham and lima beans are the worst. I also got plastic spoons and cocoa mix. If you want you can eat it and see how terrible they feed us. The cocoa is good whenever there is hot water. Let me know what I can get you in the line of things at the PX. I can get color mark a lots and spray enamel at main post. If you need film for Christine's camera or movie film, let me know what kind, I can get that too. I will send it in another ammo box.

We had demolition class today. We seen samples of different kinds of explosives and fuses needed to set them off. They set off 1/4 lbs. charges with time cord and electrical fuze. They also had detonation cord that was strung out to blow up small targets. It was also wrapped around a stump 13 times. It took half the wood off. A neat way to can open a 55 gallon drum is to put one turn of detonation cord around the lid and ignite it. It does a neat job of taking off the lid. They later splinter the stump and every thing else 10 ft. around with a pound of C-4 plastic explosives. Just 2 ounces will blow up one railroad rail. It is molded like putty. they also set off 4 dozen 1/4 lbs. charges in chain reaction to simulate a blowing up a mine field. Then they set off a composition B shape charge weighing 13 lbs. It can blast a three inch hole through 39 ft. of reinforced concrete. The ground shook when that went off.

We got back at 5:00 P.M. The other guys have C-rations twice today and don't get back till midnight. They came back last night wet and muddy and kept us awake till 12:00 P.M. We didn't set off any explosives yet but we did prepare dummy charges and lit the fuze to them today.

Got a letter from Dad today. Payday is Saturday, and Picardi and loan company collects from three privates and two sergeants at least \$25.00 total. This means I got \$45.00 left. As soon as I can I will send it home by mail order.

Ron

PS How does that work by mail? I think it will send by the branch office.