Camp Logan, Houston, Tex. January 22, 1918

My own dear mother and father:

Well, I guess you think I never think of you all as I never write, but not so, for I do think about you when ever I get a chance to think of anything but just work. Our schedule calls for work from morning early until night. I go to school from 9:30 till 11:30 each day and of nights I have to study on what I get at school during the day. I work with Serg. Henderson in afternoons, making electrical experiments, drawing maps, lines, and numerous other things we have to test out. I get about two hours a day drill, one hour calisthenics (exercises) and one hour drilling or giving commands to a squad of men and seeing that they are properly executed. All the work is more or less interesting. Our school takes up elementary electricity, what it is as near as can be defined. Our instructor is a man from one of the biggest electrical laboratories in New York and has helped in getting together the contents of one of the best electrical text books that is now on the market. I am
going to get one. He recommended it, because
he said, "I worked right with the man, that
get the things together and have worked out all
the experiments, and I know by actual
experience that all that is in the text book is all
reliable stuff, that is why I recommend it."
That is all I ever heard him say about himself.
The rest of the time he doesn't say what he can
do - but goes to work explaining the facts of
electricity and showing us by tests and explaining
in such a simple way we can hardly help but
see things that were always a mystery to me
and meant nothing more than electrical phrases
begin to look clear and reasonable, and I see
"why" it is used and the things its self look more
simple and easy to understand. I couldn't buy
the education I'm now getting for many dollars
and now would get a chance to study under
a man of this fellows calibre.

I never knew until now the exact difference
between an alternating current and direct
current, static electricity, all about magnets
and magnetic flux; induction coils, condenser
and how they are made and their exact use;
transmission of the voice waves and the
receiving of them and why it is and how it is
accomplished. And I have a much better
knowledge of such things as, Voltage, ampereage,
induction, watts, ohms, - a resistance, internal
resistance, Electric magnetic force and all
manner and ways of connecting batteries, how
it changes their use and in what way it does
and also the inside of a dry cell, its chemical
properties were explained and I believe if I were in my laboratory a while with what chemicals I already have I could make a dry cell with out much trouble at all.

This afternoon the lieutenant had me take a receiver and take what was going on a telegraph wire along the railroad. The way I did it was to connect one side of receiver to a short rod and push it in the ground. The other side I connected to a barbed wire that was on the fence under the telegraph line and when I put the receiver to my ear I could hear the telegraph instruments clicking just as plain as if I were in the office where the message was being received. We take our telephones sets they are in a leather case 3 X 6 X 8 inches and ground one side and connect one side to a wire on fence and talk to the other fellow with a phone a quarter or half mile away. Of course he has to be hooked up to the same wire. Altho we tried it once where the wire was laying on the ground and in between the phone the wire was broken and was
a gap of about 2 feet and it did not affect our talking a bit.

Our big bird men are getting awfully tame here lately. Those aeroplanes just look like big birds soaring around over camp and never a day passes but what two or three are seen flying close. They fly right over our drill grounds and one day came down lower than the tree tops. You could see the details of the workmanship of the plane. They sure are graceful things in the air.

It is pretty cold here now. It warms up in day time but nights are awfully cold it seems. I have three red wool sweaters—helmet, scarf, wristlet, socks, and with my sheepskin wool lined bed shoes. I guess you need not think of me suffering much from the cold this. The only thing I haven’t any knit goods to wear over the place my pants go where I go to bed, so I have to throw my overcoat over my legs to help them warm at night. I wear all the rest of the knit goods at night but the one sweater you know those thin blankets aren’t much warmth when it gets to blowing and is real cold. Serg Henderson just came home from seeing his mother that was sick—she lives in Ill. and he said the cold down here hurts him worse than it did when he was up in Ill.
Well I have been to see Uncle, Aunt and cousins every Sunday here lately. Leave about noon and I found that there was a night train that left about 11:30 so I came back on that train now, gives me all afternoon and until almost midnight. 20 or I can get off every Sun. after noon (I think I can) it makes a very nice visit once a week. I can't express just how much I appreciate such a privilege. Aunt sure looks well and says she hasn't felt so good for many a month. She seems to be as happy as can be. I sure cheer a fellow up to go see her. She sure is my mother here. Mam I am going to keep those pictures if you and Uncle and Aunt you sent me. It almost makes me home sick to look at them but am going to keep them just the same. The reason I never ask for any of you I did not think you had any to send and I didn't want you to fell like going to the trouble of getting some on just my account. But since you sent some I sure am going to come on to them.
I got a long letter from Rays and the 7th Volume - I certainly would like to read it, but when a fellow is so busy studying he can't even write home, not much chance to read. And I am trying to get some time in on my mathematics & chemistry. I have a book on physics and elementary chemistry I got from Hoyts Library and a book on French. And some times we have school of nights for an hour or two, besides my other studies. So that is the reason I said I thought of you when I had time to think of anyone for I go around here half the time not seeing anyone I am so busy thinking.

My Captain & Lieutenant made my sergeant give me time off during the day to complete my map of about 160 18 27 miles of country. I haven't as yet turned it over to the officers for when I do it is good bye map for I never will see it again.

Fummy thing - with all my work and study that my eyes don't bother me as they did when I wore my glasses and were at all at home. I don't know if getting stronger physically and mentally has anything to do with eyes or not.

I sure hope I continue on as good as I am now going. I was almost free from my more trouble until I got cold down here and it
started again. I guess cold weather is no
 good for it. If I am ever mustered out of
 the service I am going some place where there
 are no winter and cold weather and maybe I
 can get out my cantannah. I sure would
 hate to be up north just now. I am glad we
 are in the south only wish we were farther
 south. In civil life tho the south has no
 attraction for me for the ordinary run. Living
 down here are about two decades helping times
 up north.

 Mom, I owe about 5 a 6 letters now and
can't find time to write. What am I going to do?
Of Sundays - my only chance to write. I am
gone to Alvin and can't do it then. I never go
near Houston during week. Just pass thru
there twice on Sunday. That is all I have been
away from camp for over a month it seems.
Well we have no idea how much longer
we are going to be here any more than you
have. Some would like to know but there
is noney what ever to find out.
I am sending you 8 pictures taken when going to gun school. In some of the pictures you will notice the mask turned inside out and one showing the can of chemicals. You can get an idea from what I wrote before and the pictures just about all there is to know about the mask. Two pictures are of the gun gas.

We have gotten a picture of myself on my blue uniform of trousers and jacket. I am look like old gruntysdays with them on.

I believe such days as gruntysdays are over for me, for I am too much of a bum now to stick to any job like that again. Tents may not be the best homes on earth but I'd stick here before I would come home and go to work at that place again.

The government has raised our walls one board and raised the tent 3 feet, put in a door and put up four rafters and taken out the center pole. Makes a real nice house for us.

Well did you see the application and get it turned in all OK? I haven't heard from it yet as there has been not enough time for them to work on it. See if you can find out Harry Bordo and J. Manuel's address for me. I may want to give their names as reference for an examination I may have to take.

Well dear folks I guess I will close for now hoping to hear from you soon and that I will have an opportunity to answer your loving note Paul.