

Hivassel, N.C.

Dec. 22, 1941

Jo.

I'm now at Hivassel, N.C. on guard duty. We have a dam to guard. It is rather large. I understand it is the largest overflow dam in the the U.S. I'm taking some pictures I'll send ~~them~~ <sup>some</sup> to you soon as I'm able.

There are only fifty of us here. The rest of the battalion is scattered out over the rest of the valley. We are right next to the Tennessee line.

It is rather nice here. I like it much better than at Bragg.

Although we don't have any showers or hot water yet. They are ~~putting~~ <sup>building</sup> them in though. We are living in some discarded barracks. The windows are all out but it isn't bad at all. We are sleeping on folding cots, some are on the floor.

We don't know how long we will be here. The men

going on furloughs are to be relieved  
sometime this week. I understand  
that the rest of us will remain here  
for the time being. I sure hope we do.

The civilians are awfully nice.  
Being the first time they live around  
soldiers they don't know what to do so  
that we enjoy our stay.

We are on duty 24 hrs. than off 24.  
When on duty we walk post two hrs  
and off four. It isn't bad at all.

We are all invited for Christmas  
dinner. The folks all agreed to take a  
few of the boys in for dinner. It seems  
that we will be on post Christmas day.

I'm sure glad we are hear. It is  
good to have a change of scenery.

I hope that you have a happy  
Christmas, and that Santa is good to  
you.

We have a gym to play in. The  
country is very much like that back  
home. Except it isn't quite as rough.  
and the trees aren't as big. There also  
isn't any snow. It isn't very cold  
either.

I'm glad you like my letters. I  
really don't see what makes them  
interesting though. I never imagined

that I would enjoy writing as much as I do. I really enjoy writing letters. I get relaxation, recreation, and get a big kick out of jotting down a few words. Most of my spare time is spent in writing letters. But I still don't see where my letters are interesting. I sure hope the receivers of my letters get half as big a kick reading them as I do writing them.

We have live ammunition and are under orders to shoot to kill, in case of violation.

The dam is a government project therefore the residence district is very nice. There are no stores near. The nearest store being some four miles away.

How is everything in Denver? Is there any snow yet? It sure doesn't seem to be so near Christmas time without any snow <sup>here</sup>. It is more like early spring or early fall. It isn't cold at all. Have you learned to skate yet? You better learn, you miss out on a lot of fun by not being able to enjoy ice skating.

By the way did you

recieve a small package? I sure hope it meets with your approval.

I seem to be running low. We don't get mail very often here. As we are very near to 400 miles from Bragg.

In regards to my clothes I think I will just send them on to Uncle.

Oh! Thank you for the cookies. And recieve thanks from some dozen other soldiers who also had some of the cookies. They told me to tell you, that the cookies were very good. They all complimented ~~the~~ you. Whenever a package comes in it ~~disappears~~ <sup>goes</sup> like wild fire, and my package was no exception. There was only one thing wrong, we got a about a cookie and a half for a piece. The cookies were really very good.

Here is hoping you have a very happy holiday season, and tell the girls hello.

Peto.