

Camp San Luis Obispo
March 20, 1941
[Thursday]

Dearest Phyllis,

It doesn't seem possible that just ten days ago tonight I was down to your place for a birthday party [Pappy's birthday was March 10]. I certainly wish I could come and call on you tonight, but naturally that is out of the question. I thought about you an especially lot today because there was a very blue sky and those big, beautiful, fluffy, clouds that that you like to see so well. I certainly wished you could have been here to have gone up on the hills with me to watch them, but you weren't here so I didn't go up. How is school going, and have you had any more rain since we left? We are trying our new oil heaters for the first time tonight and the tent is full of smoke that comes from the paint on them. They are very good looking stoves; the kind you would expect to see in a living room only not so large. Spencer and Crosby drew guard duty the first night in Camp, but they don't mind because they get tomorrow forenoon off. It will probably be my luck to be on duty Saturday or Sunday. The fellows in my tent are Earl Parkinson, Jack [John] Nazer, Wayne Vance, and Bob Burgess. They are a pretty swell bunch of guys to be around although all of them but Earl smoke, but that doesn't make much difference. Old Earl is a lot of fun and he keeps us laughing all the time? The stove has finally stopped smoking so it is very comfortable in here.

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We just bought some newspapers from a little Italian paper boy. He certainly talked queer. The picture I am sending you of the Camp is just a small portion of it. As soon as I get some pictures developed I will show you our part of the camp. We are really fortunate in having our Camp in the most beautiful location in the whole Camp. It is also on high dry ground and only four miles from San Luis Obispo. San Luis Obispo is one of the prettiest cities I have ever seen and I haven't seen the better parts of it yet. You should come down and try our beds. We have feather pillows and mattress, two blankets, and a wool and cotton comforter. We'll get sheets, pillow cases, and mattress covers tomorrow or the next day. The longer I'm with these fellows in this tent the better I like them – Wayne is good speller so when I write I'll try to have as few spelling mistakes as possible. I would certainly like to hear your voice again, so I believe I'll go call you. Am I angry, you didn't happen to be home, and I was all set to talk to you. I just went out and talked to Parke Cox, Bill Swapp, and Mont Swapp. They said you were probably out with another man, but (I know that isn't true)? because with those guys here there isn't any more men in St. George. Please kiss one of those guys for me will you? I mean one of your "new" boyfriends of course. Its time for lights out, so good by until next time.

With Love,
Glade

[ED: I have made edits in brackets. Spencer Truman was Pappy's best friend. Paul "Parrot" Crosby and Spencer were both on HS football teams with Pappy; Crosby in '39 & Truman in '40. Earl Parkinson does not seem to have attended any Dixie schools in the '30s or 40's. He was born in Jan of 1917, so is five years older than Pappy. He was from Pintura, UT. "Jack" is John Nazer, of C Co. Robert (Bob) Burgess died of a sudden medical problem while guarding Japanese POWs on Feb 13, '45. Parke Cox is shown in the Washington County WWII Vet's List as being in the Air Corps, so he must have transferred there later. Bill Swapp was from Alton, but I cannot find any information on Mont Swapp; neither one is on the C Co roster, & only a Max Swapp is on the WWII Vet's list.]

PHYLLIS LIGHTNER-MOM



GLADE WITTWER-PAPPY



SPENCER TRUMAN



PAUL CROSBY



WAYNE VANCE



ROBERT (BOB) BURGESS



PARKE COX



BILL SWAPP



MONT SWAPP



SAN LUIS OBISPO



MOM'S HOME IN ST GEORGE, UTAH



Utah Troops 'Snap Into' Camp Duties

Guard Units Set Good Health Mark

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Cal., March 22—Utah national guardsmen, in training for a year, already have "made themselves at home" at Camp San Luis Obispo, regimental commanders reported Saturday.

Assembled for the first regimental inspections Saturday morning, the men expressed unanimous approval of "soldiering it luxe" as done in the modern U. S. army.

Attending the inspection was Senator A. B. Chandler of the senate military affairs committee, who was "played into the camp" by Utah's 22nd field artillery band.

Health Good

Regimental officers commented on the lack of sickness among the Utah units, the comfort of troop facilities and general satisfaction of the men. "Troop morale has never been higher," the officers said.

Temperatures at the camp are regularly around 50 degrees at night and 65 in the daytime.

The men are housed in tent houses, with wooden floors and sidewalls, with the upper half screened, the canvas tenting forming the roof which is rolled up or ventilation during the day. There is a metal cap with a small smokestack which connects with oil heaters in every tent. The floors are closed with panel board, which will be removed during warm weather, to make regular screen doors. The men sleep on individual cots, with plenty of bedding.

Streets Named

The tents are in line streets, named after the various states, with separate mess halls and canteens at the end of each street. There are permanent tables with benches attached for 220 men in each mess hall. For the present, the men are carrying their mess kits to the halls, but later, it is announced, tables will be set when the men enter for their meals, and there will be "family style" service.

Streets in the regimental areas are being paved, but there remain "duck board" sidewalks made of latted wood to keep the men out of the mud still about the camp.

The Utah units arrived at the end of a rainy season which saw

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Utah Soldiers Assume New Camp Duties

(Continued From Page 1 B)

34 inches of rainfall in this area, compared to an average annual of only 21 inches.

Training for the present will be basic education of the soldier, as planned by the war department, because of the high percentage of recruits in the regiment, according to officers.

When the men have been "broken in" to the school of the soldier and the general regulations covering military life, they will engage in more extensive training with their guns. The engineer units will specialize in road and bridge building.

By summer the troops will have advanced to extensive maneuvers as parts of the division, and the artillery units will engage in firing practice with the 75-millimeter guns of the 143th and the 155s of the 222nd.

Colonel Lloyd H. Duffin of the 145th, Colonel J. Wallace West of the 222nd and Colonel D. O'Sullivan of the 115th engineers all joined in praise of the camp and its healthful conditions, lauded the excellent morale of the troops and forecast a pleasant and interesting year of military life.

OAKLAND POST-ENQUIRER. THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1941
11,000 ARMY TRAINEES "DIG IN" AT SAN LUIS OBISPO



"PANORAMIC VIEW of Camp San Luis Obispo's new section. It pictures the lower part of the huge cantonment's "hour glass" camp site. The view shows the tents of the 159th Infantry (Oakland's Own) and those of the 143rd Field Artillery, where Metropolitan Oakland men are quartered. The men in the foreground enjoying the vista are Sergt. Chars Gustafson and Pvt. Clyd Graton of the 160th Infantry, and Sergeant Davis of division Headquarters clerical staff. It's a great place for hikers both on and off duty". [This picture was found folded up in a scrapbook. I was unable to scan the entire page.]



40TH DIVISION SHOULDER
PATCH



115TH ENGINEER REGIMENT
EMBLEM



159TH INFANTRY
REGIMENT EMBLEM



160TH INFANTRY
REGIMENT EMBLEM



143RD FIELD ARTILLERY
EMBLEM



TENTS AT CAMP SLO

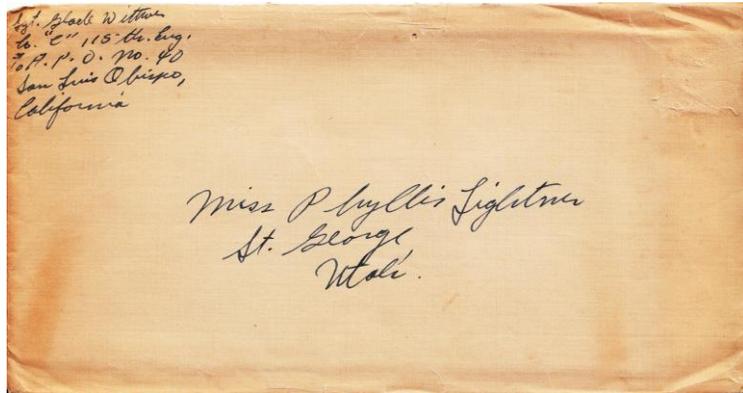
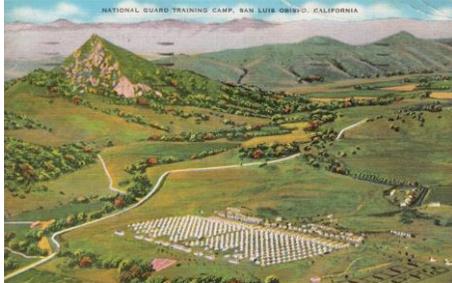


INSIDE A TENT WITH A STOVE IN CENTER



PAPPY WAS PROMOTED TO SGT EARLIER IN MARCH

POSTCARD OF SLO BEFORE EXPANSION, DATE UNKNOWN:



Co. 1, 115th Engr. Regt.
P. O. No. 40
San Luis Obispo,
California

Miss Phyllis Lightner
St. George
Utah.