

Guard Camp [San Luis Obispo, CA]
August 11, 1940 [Sunday]

Dearest Phyllis,

We have been in camp for five days and by now are pretty well acquainted with Camp routine. Army life isn't so bad, the only thing being that the dirt here is so dirty. I hope you'll excuse me if the paper isn't clean, but maybe you would like a sample of Washington dirt. We certainly have a hard time trying to write, because we have no tables and black dirt is everywhere. I've been taking a lot of pictures of Camp life; some of which should be pretty good. Yesterday evening some fellows from "D" Company caught one of their men who had long hair and gave Carlos Lang a job of giving him a Military hair cut. I've never laughed so hard in my life. Got pictures of the haircut before and after. Speaking of pictures how about sending me a picture of yourself? I would like to have one very much so I could show some of the fellows what a really

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swell girl looks like. I think about you a great deal of the time wishing you were somewhere near so I could get to see you once in a while. There aren't any decent looking girls around up here, anyway we haven't seen them. The other night we had leave to go into Centralia. Spencer, Archie Wallis, Brock, and I went on a tear and had a big time [only] the next morning we caught it in the neck for not being up on time. The other morning we were out shooting T.N.T. and when the stuff lets loose it really makes a boom. We were about half through when it began to rain, and before long we were all looking like a bunch of drowned rats. A lot of the guys caught cold. Every morning there is a fog here which is so thick it can be cut with knives and piled in blocks. This is certainly an lousy life especially for the non-coms and officers. In the morning we work on some problem and then have most of the noon off. At night there is wrestling, boxing, baseball games, and a free picture show,

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so you can see we have plenty of recreation. There is also a regimental Canteen up near the head of our company street where you can buy almost anything except hard liquor. This morning we almost went to Church, or rather the Church came to us. The services were held in back of our tent. There are some quite humorous customs they have here in Camp that I will tell you about when I get back. I suppose you read the papers the other day and saw that our division may be stationed in Panama, but from what I hear about Panama that wouldn't be so bad for just a year. We read very fine magazines here. Spencer is reading a spicey Western now, which says in it that it is a culture publication. I will really be glad when this Camp breaks up so I can get to see you again. If you were here I would[n't] mind staying around for awhile. I hope to be seeing you two weeks from tonight, how about it? How about writing and sending that photo during your spare time?

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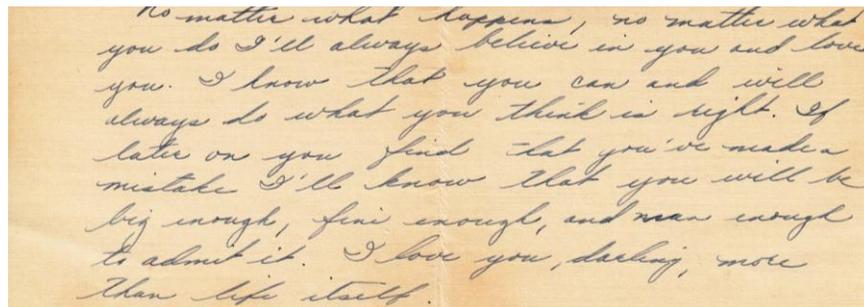
Is there anything exciting happening down there? We'll be having plenty of it beginning on the fourteenth when our maneuvers begin. We have ammunition which is dangerous at 100 yds. and can kill at 25 yds, but I hope none of the men get hurt. Well I'll be seeing you soon; I hope.

Love,
"Diz"

Address

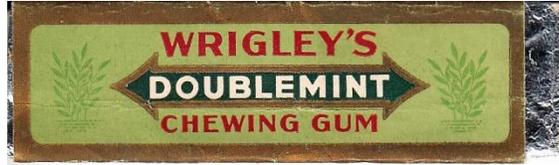
Corporal G.S. Wittwer
Co. C. 115 Engineers
A.P.O. No. 40
Camp Grand Mound,
Washington

Enclosed in this letter—in Phyllis's handwriting—is the following, cut from a letter:



No matter what happens, no matter what you do I'll always believe in you and love you. I know that you can and will always do what you think is right. If later on you find that you've made a mistake I'll know that you will be big enough, fine enough, and man enough to admit it. I love you, darling, more than life itself.

Also enclosed: An empty gum wrapper.



[ED: I have made edits in brackets. Centralia WA is located in the lower SW of the state. The return address on the enveloped shows that Pappy is a CPL.. SGT Carlos Lang is from St George. The Washington County WWII Vet's list shows him in the Military Police. CPL Spencer Truman was Pappy's best friend. "Diz" is Pappy's nickname from when he played baseball, after the famous pitcher, Dizzy Dean. I couldn't find any information on Archie Wallis. Brock is PFC Nord Brockbank of St George. Camp Grand Mound is now a public recreational area.]

PHYLIS LIGHTNER-MOM



PAPPY, L, & SPENCER TRUMAN, ON TRAIN AT CEDAR CITY, DEPART FOR SERVICE



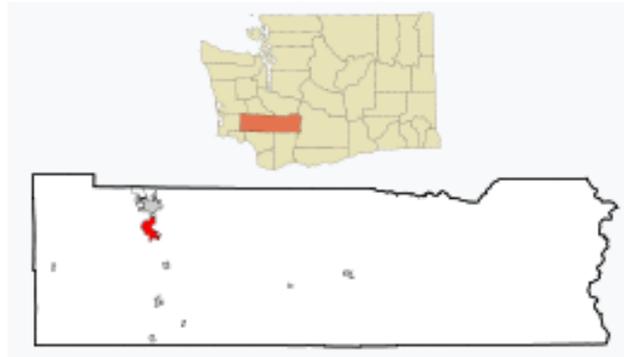
CARLOS LANG



NORD BROCKBANK



CENTRALIA/CHEHALIS, WA



115TH ENGINEER RGT
COAT OF ARMS

