

March 7 - 84

March 2, 1944

Dear Brother Jack:

Hope you will excuse the typewriter. I have been placed in an office and I had better appear busy don't you think? So far I haven't anything to do so I don't believe I'm cheating the government very much. We all have days when we like to goof off as they say in the army.

The wild and wooly west isn't bad at all except the weather which has been terrible until this week. The place has been covered in snow since I came until the last few days. I have had to do everything except sleep in it. You have never lived until you have spent a half day on a firing range in a blinding snow storm. I could hardly see the target, much less hit it. The training hasn't been bad at all. We had lectures, training films, some drill and one seven mile hike. Must admit I was plenty tired after that. All we had to carry was a full pack, gas mask, raincoat and rifle. They decided to use me in an office as long as I'll be here which didn't make me mad at all. Some of my friends came in yesterday from a twenty-seven mile hike and they were really pitiful. Their feet are in a mess. This is without a doubt the worse typewriter I have ever used.

Have been into Salt Lake City several times. I visited the Mormon buildings and museum. The guide gave us such a sales talk on their religion until I left the group and did my own looking. Yes, I'm ashamed. The Capitol is one of the nicest I have seen.


This camp is in a nice setting. Mountains all around and we look down on Salt Lake City fourteen miles away. At night when all the lights are on it is quite a picture.

I hated to leave home and Bainbridge but going across doesn't scare me at all. For some reason I know I'll be back. Something seems to tell me I will be allright. I feel like I have a job cut out for me at home and that it won't be too long before I'll be back. Is that what you would call faith?

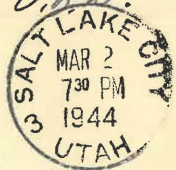
Drop in on the folks sometimes and cheer them up and also slip in a prayer for me each night.

Give my best regards to the family.

Sincerely,

  
Paul

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Free

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Ans  
3-7-44