

May 29, 1917.

My Dear Grace:-

I have felt like a prince for five days and last night the bomb fell. Every morning I get up and look outside as the sun is just appearing and I breathe in the fresh morning air. At those times I forget Austin and Oak Park. We all thought that yesterday would be our last day on police duty. Last night as we were coming in (10 o'clock) our sergeant said that headquarter orders were 2 weeks more of police duty. It took all my pep away. I felt miserable. You wouldn't blame me Grace if you knew what the work is. I am getting my self in shape so I can go out to-morrow in good feelings. We expect to work to-morrow even though it is Memorial Day.



Sensitive Content Disclaimer

This letter contains a sensitive, troubling, and potentially triggering account that is rooted in racial and ethnic prejudices. The Swedish American Museum condemns these actions, and is committed to acknowledging and learning from the harm that racially-motivated prejudice and violence has had and continues to have on people and communities of color throughout the United States.

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Sherman was right when he said,
"War is —"

I am thinking and praying
for the Convention which starts
today. Even though I can't be there
in person my thoughts and heart
will be there.

I signed my name to the
pay roll today. Some size. I am afraid
I don't know where I will find place
to put all of it.

I have a little happening to
relate to you. We came very near
lynching a negro yesterday. Our
sergeant told us if our company had
been in the other companies place he
would have allowed us to go ahead.
We were two companies on police duty.
This company was falling in to go
to supper. We line up and we
count 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4 and so on
down the line. Some private made
a mistake and this negro started

to poke fun at the company. The
sergeant told him to shut up and
ordered his company to count
over. Again a fellow made a mistake
and the negro again poked fun at
the company and at the uniforms.
The sergeant told his company to
get him. The sergeant and corporal
were in the lead and the negro was
cornered in a house. He had a long
knife and started to slice away.
He cut the ~~ser~~ sergeant on his left
arm and back. The corporal was
slashed in the back and a private
was cut over the heart before he
was caught. The company wanted
to hang him but the sergeant had
the word and the negro was taken
to jail. As our company was not
in it we could do nothing. Just
think of me helping to lynch a
man, can you seeing me do it. Such
is the life of a soldier. I had an

argument with Oscar over the
negro some time ago and now
more than ever I feel prejudiced
toward the negro. Tell him so,
will you?

I enclose a little of the
program we go through during
the week. Most of this will be
Arabic to you but it will give
you an idea of a little of our duties.
This is on ~~the~~ side of our drilling.

I don't know how interesting
this letter is to you, but I give it
to you anyway.

I hope it reaches you in the
best of health. My love goes forth
to you.

Your soldier boy,
Dave.

P.S. We have a ball game to-night.

Physical Drill with Arms.

Commands, come to the ready 1-2-3.

16 counts to each exercise.

1. Down and forward.
2. Forward and upward.
3. Up and shoulders.
4. Side pushes.
5. Diagonal lunges.
6. Forward lunges.
7. Front sweep slow.
8. Over-head twists. (butts forward.
9. " " " (muzzel forward.
10. Side twists.
11. Company attention.

Weekly Inspections

Monday.

Sanitary (stripped to the waist and sitting on the foot of the bunk with one shoe off.)

Tuesday.

Company Commanders (Gents in good police, Lockers in good shape, clothes folded neatly.)

Wednesday.

(Clothing on bunk.)

Thursday.

(Equipment on bunk.)

Friday.

(Heavy marching order.)

Saturday.

(No Inspection.)

Sunday.

(8: A.M. Troop, Uniform, O.D. Shirt, Trousers, Leggins, Everything in first class shape. (note: Sunday afternoon prepare for Commanding Officers inspection by cleaning & shining mess gear, blousing leggins, cleaning rifles having them free from oil & dust.)