

Colora
With the Collars;

Fort Leven^aworth Kansas Usa; *April 19th 1918*

Dear Mother.

Your letter came this P M, glad to hear Dad is getting things fussed up, I sure hope you folks will land the \$200,00 on the ins, as there is evidently plenty plenty of use for it,

Well the unexpected has happened to the sixth Battalion, Wednesday a staff of vocational and efficiency experts came direct from the Adjutant Generals office, Washington to conduct an examination for all men who were qualified for any other work than that they were doing at present, the examination, which was oral. Was compulsory and cards were made out for each man. All the Officers in the Battalion were at the tables where each man gave his past history, Believe me every one saw at a glance that there was no chance to put any thing over, for the old boys had their little reference books right handy, The Captain was right on the JOB, and evidently knew every trade from landscape architecture, to sewing on buttons on tombstones.

When my turn came, the Battalion Co, *ever* Captain started the questioning I told him I was an amateur photographer with experience in *com*mercial work, at this the staff captain picks a big book and came alongside. Well he questioned me about long focus, wide angle, and telephoto lenses, focal plane shutters, and diaphragm stops, circuit cameras, and cameras for photographing skyscrapers. all kinds of *pro*cess work, such as copying maps and drawings. photomicrography, panchromatic and high speed plates, different developers, and everything n everything;

Well I answered every one completely and correctly to a dot without any stalling on a single point.

The staff Captain told the Battalion Co Captain to put me down as an expert photographer, and He endorsed it, he then went to Captain Murphy who was at hand and told ~~zhzzz~~ him that I had correctly answered every one of all his questions, And that I would be transferred to the observation branch of the Photographic section, Signal Corps.

The Co, Clerk wrote direct to Washington Wednesday night concerning another man and myself, so I guess its the real goods alright; The next day Sergeant Baler, my Section chief, asked me if I knew what the Staff Captain told Lieutenant Kilbury (our first Lieutenant) about me,

he then told me, that the Staff Cap- said that I had the best technical knowledge of *photography* of the eighty thousand men he had examined in the last six months,

Now you may think I am going rather heavy on the loud pedal, but its the real stuff, without any retouching to make it sound better for me.

The staff Captain or rather Personal officer as he is right called, gave his personal endorsement for my transfer, and it looks as if I would get my chance, after all. Now believe me I want to make good too. And I am going to work my hardest to qualify to do something along a photographic line in the photo section, of course aerial photography is only a small part of the signal corps photo work, and I may not stand a chance of ever getting within forty miles of it. but I will be glad to do something in the photo line anyway,

Now please returne all my photographic hand books to me, as quick as possible, The sixth Batallion is booked for room and board in U S A, for the next four or five months at least. It will be considerably changed too, with about 25, to 40, % new recruits drafted of course, at that, Captain Murphey A -Co, Comander is going to be made a Major of someother batallion. Believe me every one of us hate to see him go, as he is one mighty fine fellow, Heres hoping I go pretty quick.

Wishing Dad and Josie many returnes of their anniversary, suppose you got my cards, tell M, I will write to her saturday or sunday, As I have a little scrubbing to do to night before lights are out.

with love, Forrest;

Be sure and send all the books;