

2 January 1944

Dear Dr. Allen;

It has been some time since I wrote you last, and there have been quite a few changes in my status in the army. As you may have heard the advanced calculus got a little too rough to handle for me in my course in New York University and I was dropped from the ASTP program there. I think the main trouble was that I should have had elementary calculus before I went to the program but they put me in it anyway and as a result it was like playing a basketball game before you have the fundamentals. It just can't be done.

From New York University I was transferred to a Combat Engineer Battalion in Fort Devens, Mass. I had not even gotten my barracks bags unpacked in Fort Devens when we were ordered to move down here to Camp Butner, North Carolina where I am stationed now. The whole Group (equalivent of a regiment) of engineers moved down with us and we have just about taken over one corner of the camp. At the present time we are not anywhere near up to full strength. We only have the cadre and a few trainees. We don't know when we are to received the rest of our men and until that time we are in a cadre training schedule. I was classified by the Board of this battalion as a clerk and typist mainly because I had had so high school typing and at that time they were in need of a typist. I don't know whether I will remain at this work in Battalion headquarters after the trainees come in or not. That about covers my experiences since leaving New York University.

Before I left N Y University a group of fellows and myself scrimmaged with the varsity of N Y U. The game was very ragged and either team had had much practice. That was in late November. We did not keep score but they did beat us I am sorry to say. I see that Bruce Drake's boys are to play NYU in New York in March near the last of the schedule. You can tell Bruce that his boys better be on their bicycles the night they play NYU because they have a bunch of little warts who could go between Ballard's legs without bending over but they are as fast as lightening and can all hit around the free throw circle and out ten feet further, with a darned good percentage. They had one boy who was playing center at that time for them who was taller than the rest, but they don't need to worry about him because he is a very weak spot. They didn't seem to have much system to their play when I saw them but they did fast break every chance they got and did work a few "western screens" around the single pivot post. Most of their screens are pulling the man into the open for a shot in about the place that a forward shoots on a number 1 play of ours. They used a tight man for man defense but did check men.