

**NOVEMBER 7, 1950, 5:30 P.M.  
POSTCARD TO JOHN W. MORGAN  
RR 3, CRAWFORDSVILLE IND**

**(typed except for his signature)**

This is to let you know I have reached Camp Breckinridge safely. Starting in the morning, the first few days I am here will be spent getting my personal records filled out, arranging for pay, receiving my army clothing and other details, including inoculations, medical and dental examinations. After that I will be assigned to a regular unit and then I can give you my permanent mailing address while I am here. There are several nice service clubs in Camp, a library and moving picture shows. The nearest town is Morganfield, Ky, 2 miles from the main gate. Other towns are Henderson, Ky, 22 miles away and Evansville, Ind 35 miles distant. Clayton Morgan (signature)



**CLAYTON MORGAN**

Thurs Nov 9, 1950 – 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Camp Breckinridge Ky paper – Dear Folks, I suppose you have been waiting for a letter. I have had plenty of chances to write, but nothing to write on or any stamps either. We weren't hardly let out of the barracks for two days for anything besides eating and to get some clothes. We got the last of our clothes yesterday eve. I never seen so damn many clothes in all my life. I'll tell you what I got some other time when I find out the name of everything. I did get two pairs of paratroop boots and one pair of dress shoes for one thing. To get back a little ways, Mon we went to the same place on Mass Ave in Indianapolis. We sat around until 3:10 p.m. before we left Ind. We came down on a Greyhound bus. We ate at Shoals & got here about 10:00. I sure had a head ache when I got here. They gave us a card to sign over name to & put us to bed. A couple of "wise guys" laughed until about midnight. They got us up at 4:45 Tues morn. It was pretty nice & warm all day. They had us sitting around about all morning. That's the way it is; you either sit out your "fanny" or you move like hell. That afternoon they marched us around a little & then we played softball, football, basketball & volleyball. We just played whatever we wanted to. That eve after chow we had a guy to go AWOL. I think he had a wife & three kids. I don't know how he got in unless he was a Bill Priebe. By the way, I'm upstairs in our barracks I'm glad I'm up here because the guys downstairs say we make a lot of noise. There's about 30 guys up here. About 5 xxxx xxxx about 2 "royal" xxxx xxxx & the rest are pretty good Joes. That was about 2:30 when they hollered fall out so I just now got back to this letter at 6:15. We went over to the theater & had the "Articles of War" read to us by some captain. It has been cloudy everyday but Mon. & it rained like hell all night last night & turned cold while it rained. We didn't have any fire & it was really cold when we got up this morning about 4:20. We never have got up later than 4:45. I've been awake every morning so far. If this letter seems all jumbled up it's because I just wait till something pops into my mind. We took tests all morning. We haven't took any shots yet; probably tomorrow. The eats were pretty poor the first two

days but they shipped about 80 guys out and they had extra. I really filled up that night. It tastes OK but you just don't get enough, all you can recognize is the coffee & butter & bread. The rest I couldn't name for hell. Everything is mixed in some kind of broth. I'd better sign this off if I can get anything done tonite. We're going three 4 days processing before we're assigned to our outfits. I am permanently in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Div but the rest of this address is just temporary. Don't write me until I tell you to because it will just come back to you. I'll have to wait to get to a permanent outfit. Max Servies got separated from me at Ind. He came down on the 1<sup>st</sup> load I came on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Surface boy is still with me. I'll have to get some more stamps before I can write again. The PX keeps sold out. There sending new guys in here every day & everybody is trying to write home. There's about 7,000 here in camp & will hold about 23,000. I'll get from 6 to 14 weeks basic. It is really 14 because 8 weeks is advanced training or something. What I mean is I may take the 6 weeks here & then a 7 day furlough then the other 8 weeks somewhere else or I may get the whole 14 here before I get a furlough & then I may not get one then. We got another "wise guy" married who says he's going home for Christmas regardless. We got a Cpl & a Sgt Masters who bunks upstairs here too. They're both good guys. The Sgt said they're short about 12 "noncoms" in our Co, a Pvt really rates around here & a Pfc thinks he's a colonel. The Lts act like pfcs. One of these "xxxx xxxxx" really got his xxx chewed out for calling a Navy Doctor "Bud." I've just got to quit & take a shower I'm getting along fine so don't worry about me. Don't write me until I tell you. PS Send this letter to Max because I haven't got anymore stamps. I'll write again when I get some. I'll tell more about everything later.

Sat nite, Nov 11, 1950. Dear Folks, Well, I wrangled another stamp out of a guy so I'll write again. They're as scarce as stripes among these guys. I sure didn't know I couldn't get any or I would have brought some from home. I'll bet I could sell 300 right now among these guys just upstairs. I'll just divide this letter up in to parts and write it down as I think of it. First of all since I wrote that other letter we've taken several different test. Radio, elec, mechanical, clerical, code and several others. We've gone in to the theater once or twice to hear a speech or two and see a picture or 2. Today Sat Nov 11 we rolled out at 4:20 (that's pretty early; we generally get to sleep till 4:30) that sound exaggerated but we've averaged getting up at 4:30 since we've been here. But time sure flies and its time to fall out before you know it. We went to take 3 shots this morning, that took all morning. I'll take that back; we signed up for our insurance also. I took out the same kind as J. did (5 yrs \$10,000 for \$6.60 a month) On that allotment, of I can't tell you anything as yet. I filled out papers but it is a lot of red tape. This is the deal on that. On all my other papers I've filled out C.D. is my dependant, but I can't use him unless I have supported him for 5 years and more than 50% I told the guy that I actually supported 50% of each (Mom & CD = Carroll Dean) but he didn't know whether that would work or not. So he changed it to Mom. I may have to go back and change a lot of papers, but I'll get it, I'm pretty sure you'll get it. If I do you'll get tline\$45 from the gov't and I think they'll take \$30 from my pay. The \$45 is right for sure. The way it is on a top allotment (2 depend) or more is they take \$40 from your pay and put \$67.50 with it. That's the most anybody can get (\$107.50). That's all I can tell you right now so I'll go on. This afternoon, we fell out in a class A uniform to go have our pictures taken. The general (Gen. Rene) wants to send you a picture of me along with a letter with all the routine BS about this camp, etc. Well we got over to our studio and there we were to be assigned to our outfits for Basic T. (This was our lat day of processing). Well they started reading off names (Jones certain battery of the Inf Smith- Certain Bat of the Field art, etc. These two were the only two outfits assigned to anyone). So they go ahead and read off all the names. They never did call my name. Also 2 others in my roster (30 gI's). We asked them why and they said we had been unassigned.

Why, I don't know to save me. One guy said we would be put in another outfit. I know I didn't do worth a damn on all the tests unless it was the Mechanical; but they were so damn simple, anybody could have answered them. (Then too I forgot to tell you they interviewed us about our past occupations this morning. They asked what all I did in a saw mill and the type of work it consisted of doing, the machinery it takes to run one etc). (You see they claim they want to put a man in the outfit he is best suited to do. Now say that I did make a high score on my mech test along with my past occupation I might be put in some mech work). Now this is just something to think about and it's more than likely wrong. I'll probably know in a day or 2. These other guys are supposed to ship out to some other place here in camp for BT the first of the week. So us 3 guys may get left behind. They could have got our papers fouled up, but I don't think so, one of these other guys (1 of us 3) asked a guy in another roster about it and he said they told him that he was to be shipped out and put in the A Force. Now this came through 2 guys so I couldn't tell whether that was the truth or now. Now that's all I can tell you about that. M. Servies qualified for OTS and he also passed his test. He didn't say what he had decided to do. He is in the next barracks, also one of the Redman boys (Henry about the same age as me) is over there too. That struck me kind of funny as you remember J. went in with his brother. Henry said that his brother was in the F.A. and that he was also assigned to a F.A. Bat. So Maybe I'll step into my brothers shoes -- HA! There are a lot of damn xxxxxxxx in this camp. We have one upstairs here. He's a pretty good egg but the rest make me sick. The way the "xxxx xxxx xxxx eat. Some of them stick a piece of bread in their mouths, then stuff it on in with their fingers. They sure stick together. I guess over at Fort Knox it's lousy with them. I don't know what I'll do tomorrow yet. The Cpl drew names out of the hat for KP duty and I was lucky enough not to get drawn. Well I think I'll quit here and take a shower. I'd better tell you again not to write me yet. It may be another week or longer before you can. I'm getting along just fine. I didn't know one direction from another until today when the sun came out. Its been colder but the wind didn't blow like it did all week. It sure is damp when the sun isn't out. I've been having sinus trouble the last 3 days and I caught a cold the first day I was here. That sure makes a guy miserable, but outside of that I feel fine. By the way, the guy who went AWOL is back. I guess he came back on his own. I don't know what they are going to do with him. I've seen him down at the Orderly Room 2 times. Another thing I forgot to tell you. They gave us a free haircut the 1<sup>st</sup> day we were here (45 secs flat). We also got our "flying 10" - \$10-\$.50 for that haircut). Well I'm going to quit for good here. I'll let you know when you can write me. Love Clate

Tuesday, Nov 14, 1950 – another post card, typed except some things filled out and hand written

My processing is finished now and I have been assigned to a unit. My mailing address is: Co. B 502<sup>nd</sup> Abn, Inf. Reg'T., 101<sup>st</sup> Abn, Div, Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. The last thing in processing was a photograph in my new uniform at the post studio. This was done free of charge and will be sent to you as soon as it is developed and printed. I just found that the Camp has hobby shops and that entertainments of various kinds are held every week at the service club. There are post exchanges where I can buy everything I may need. (Hand written) – This 101<sup>st</sup> ANB Div is just a name of the outfit in the last was. We're strictly on the ground. So don't worry about the name. P.S. No Photo yet – getting along fine, write soon, Love Clate.

No date – Wed nite 1:45 a.m. rather Thurs morn – should go about in this time frame – Dear Max & Buck, Maybe you wonder why I'm writing at this time of nite. It looks like I might be

getting in off of a big drunk. Well its not that. I'm firing furnaces tonite. They take a man out of each platoon & they make 3 shifts each nite, 6:30 to 10:30; 10:30 to 2:30; 2:30 to 6:30 in the morn. A platoon is about 64 men and each platoon as a barracks. Well each barracks has a furnace & also a coal water heater. I fire 3 furnaces, 3 water heaters & a stove at the orderly room. Only tonite it looks like I fire all nite by myself. Our Sgt forgot to send a man from his platoon & I don't know what happened to the other one anyhow I'm hellish sleepy, but I have to stay awake so I'm sitting here writing letters. I just got thru writing one home. I don't know if Mom sent you the letters I wrote home or not, I told her to. If she hasn't I will tell her again so I won't have to go into all the details again. If there is anything you want to know ask them & I can tell you then. We started our basic training this week. The other two weeks didn't count. I'm in the Inf. For good it looks like or at least for 14 wks. Max Servies is still with me, he bunks a couple of bunks away. It kind of helps to have someone around that you know real well, he's even in the same squad I am. (a platoon is split up into 4 squads). Each man has a certain place in his squad; then when you fall out you go right to that place. Before I forget it this 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Div isn't really an abn outfit. It was during the last war & they just never changed the name. We wear a "screaming eagle" patch. It's the head of an eagle (white head, yellow bill against a black background). I have some stationary up in my foot locker with the insignia on it but I couldn't get to it without waking everybody. Well Max I hope this letter will do for right now for I'll have to make my rounds. I may get a 5 day furlough Christ or NY don't bank on it though. You never know the Army. PS I'm getting along ok. Write whenever you can. Love Clate. Tell Russell (?) hello.

No date, but probably in here somewhere – Wed nite, 9:45 p.m. (this is on Camp B stationary) – Dear Folks, I'll write just a few lines while I have time. I'm firing the furnaces tonight until about 10:30. There are 3 barracks & the orderly room that has to be kept going. It's pretty warm down here tonite & it isn't taking much fire. Then too they're burning crates & trash out of the supply room so I haven't done much yet. There is three shifts each nite. From 6:30 to 10:30; 10:30 to 2:30 & 2:30 to 6:30. They take a man out of each platoon & he is also the barracks orderly for his platoon for the next day. He has to clean up after everybody leaves & just stay around the barracks. So I'm barracks orderly tomorrow; Thanksgiving Day. The only day I get off & I pull a detail like that. It won't be to bad though because I would have to straighten much of anything up with everybody around. I'll mostly just keep the fire going. Last night we got some more clothes. We got our overcoats overshoes 2 pr of field pants a winter cap, suspenders & our bayonets. Tonite right after chow they took us over for another shot. When we came back everybody took his rifle down to some building to clean it. I didn't go because I had to fire the furnaces. We start carrying our M 13 Friday about all we've done this week is attend classes (first aid; hear the chaplain talk; classes on the atomic bomb; gas & all different kinds of warfare. We drill about 1 hr every day). Monday we had a Physical Training class, it had rained all night Sunday nite & then it turned colder than hell. The last hr Monday they had us take off our hats & coats & we stood out in a damned muddy field & listened while they demonstrated what we were going to do. Everybody nearly froze to death. We had it again today but it was pretty warm all day. We run about all the way between classes (double time they call it). Some of the guys fall out on those little stretches. I don't know what they'll do when it really gets tough. I get along ok except my feet. My damn shoes nearly kill me. They cut into my ankles. You ought to hear the cigarette smokers blow. They really "bitch." They say, "What the hell are they trying to do, kill us?" I get kind of winded, but when you see some fat boy running along side of you with his tongue hanging out about a foot you feel like you could run another mile. I see by a clipping Max S got that its pretty cold up there & it has been snowing some to. It has only froze a couple of times since I've been over

here & I haven't seen any snow, just rain & more rain. So far it has just rained mostly at night. I got a letter from you & from Bet last Mon. I don't need to tell you they were a welcome sight. You don't have to write much just as long as you write. Just write about anything. It doesn't matter what it is; anything is good news. I'm glad to hear Deanie is helping out like he is. Maybe I can get him something. I don't know what it would be because its hard to find anything in that line at a PX & I can't get out of camp; but I'll see what I can do. Tell him I said for him to try real hard in school, because if he could see what some of these dumb devils pull he would soon see it pays to learn all you can. I see in the paper the war is looking a little better but nobody down here thinks it's ways near over. Our CO told us this evening that everyone will get a 5 day furlough at Christmas or NY's (1/2 & 1/2). But they told us that when we first cam here & then they turned around & said we'd get our 14 wks right straight thru; so don't bank on it. I'd better stop here & get back to work. I'm setting on a stool righting this. The first good shit I've got since I've been in here. Maybe I can write some more tomorrow. Well I had to stop there. Everybody came blundering in & I had to get out of the way. I played hell getting off at 10:30. Its 12:00 now & nobody showed up yet. I seen Sgt. Pait out front & he said he forgot to get a man out of his platoon so if his man was next I'll pull his shift too. He said he was so busy getting us guys ready for those shots he had forgotten it. Then he took them down for that rifle cleaning detail & Max S said some guy fouled up the sights on his rifle or was monkeying with it or something & Max said Pait got mad & made them all put their back together & brought them back. I guess they had just got them torn apart. This Sgt Pait is our master sgt. He's a real guy. He's been in about 8 yrs. I think & He really knows his stuff He's a little guy but he's tuff as nails. He's around 40 years old I think. He cusses like hell all the time. You can't imagine how comical he is unless you seen him. Well I had better make my rounds again or my fires will be out. Maybe I can think of something else to write by then. Well that took about 10 minutes so I'll go ahead. Tell Bet she'll have to read these letters for awhile unless I do get one wrote tonite. I think I told you I got a letter from her too, Mon. Its kind of got to where I've got caught up on all the things that have happened. I have to wait for something else to come along before I can find anything to write about. It's going to get to where I'll be doing this same things everyday. The chow is really good. I've served on the chow line twice today & they really give you all you can eat. Then the last day or so I've got to go back for 2nds. I'll get fat as a hog if I keep eating the way I have been. There is no comparison between these meals & the ones we got when we first came in. There is one cook in the kitchen that will really chew a guy's ass out if he leaves anything. He sure never says anything to me. The only thing I haven't liked so far is greens & sweet potatoes with dried apples or something. I couldn't hardly get them down. You think I'm finiky, you should see some of these guys. They leave half their stuff. They told us if we towed the line this week they'd lift the restrictions this wkend, so maybe I'll at least get to go to the PX. Larry & J were always talking about going to a show every night. In the 1<sup>st</sup> place I wouldn't go if they would let us, a fellow is so damn tired & it's always later before you ever get to even sit down. Like those rifles, all that is on your time. You send out your laundry change bedding or if nothing else Waterbury has a speech to make. How is Ray & J getting along on the forty? Is the Cat giving them anymore trouble? How does he like the new tires. Who have they get doing the cutting. How are the Winiger's. Tell them I aid hello. Well I had better cut this off & write somebody else. You didn't say whether you sent those other letters on to Max or not. If you havn't send them because I won't have to write all that in her letter. The next time you write don't get in such a damned hurry. You surly was going to town because you didn't tell me half the things I wanted to know. How is Nig & all the folks up there. Tell them I'll write them when I can catch a little extra time. Well it's 1 o'clock so it looks like I'm up for the night. I'm almost over my cold & I feel a lot better. I'm getting along fine. The only part I hate is that 1<sup>st</sup> hr of a

morning. They get you up early then you have to make your bunch sweet & mop & get the hell out. We've got a system where the platoon that has the cleanest barracks gets to eat first the next day & they don't have to fall out for police call. We were first the 1<sup>st</sup> day & we're 2<sup>nd</sup> tomorrow. Id' imagine Waterbury will comb our ass if we're not first ths next time. Well I'm quittin for good. Love, Clate. PS Write some damned letters.

Thursday morn – (no date, no envelope but probably goes about here – Dar Folks, It's 6:30 a.m. & we're all waiting to see if we go out onto the rifle range. They got us up at 4 again this morning & then we have just been sitting here with our clothes on. Just now they came in & told us to undress that if we did go it would be at 7:30 so I've got a little time of the Armie's for once. Yesterday we went out in the rain. It had rained about all night. I think I told you that everything outside of the main camp area is in corn. Well the rifle range is in a corn field to. You can imagine how this Ky. clay is. They band sand for us to lay on but water was standing on top of the sand. Everybody was about soaked. You either layed there or set about one hour. Then you had to coach someone else while he fired. About 9:30 or 10 o'clock the rain started freezing. Some of the riles in the racks filled with ice. The sand clogged a lot of rifles to. You had to keep the trigger hand glove off also that was tuff to. I coached a little kid about 5' tall or less. He nearly froze to death. I held his bare hand in my hands while he wasn't firing or I believe his hand would have froze. The last order they just sent them through anyway. They had a lot of ammo left and they handed out 3 or 4 clips & said fire away. It sounded like machine guns for awhile. Ice cycles were hanging from everybodies helmets & our outer pants were froze stiff. Even though it was that bad the guys wernt bitching as much out there as they do around the barracks. When we came back in at about 1 o'clock we had the afternoon off to clean our rifles. It snowed last night & its very cold here this morn. That's why we're waiting. I hope we go out because at least you'll be dry. A fellow just gave the weather report. He said snow & cold again today. He said I guess there isn't much we can do about it except stay by the fire. Now we were supposed to be on the rifle range the rest of the week. Sat we fire the carbine. J. do you remember one model of the carbin that fires either semi or full automatic. It fires 750 rounds per min. I think it holds 28 rounds per step. I never heard you mention it. We saw a movie on it. It looked pretty wicked. Did ever tell you we have a Spicer & a Pierce in our Platoon. I don't care much for Spicer but Pierce is a hell of a nice guy. Well its 10 after 1 so I better quit. I got a letter from Pudge last night. I got some other letters from you & Bet sometime. I forget when If I don't get them read when they're handing out the mail I have to just stick them in my pocket. So I may have some letters I've never read yet. "HA". I don't think I told you that I haven't got paid yet. There was about 12 in the company that never. They said we would but they've probably fouled up somewhere. Some of the furloughs were changed. Mine is the same some of the guys from Ohio put up such a howl that they finally gave all of them 10 days. They took 5 days away from a guy from Fort Wayne & that's farther than what some of the guys live in Ohio. He really got a dirty deal. Well I'm going to stop here. I'll write later. Love, Clate PS Did J get all of the tires yet. Has Deanie got his report card again yet. Tell him not to worry you to much about going to the show because I havn't been to one since I've been here. They just come in and said no range today but they'll find something. Bye

Sat nite, 25 Nov 1950 – Dear Bet, I just came back from the PX so I'll write a line or two before I go to bed. We got our restriction lifted today, so we can go anywhere on the post now, providing we toe the mark. I just went up to the PX but it was so cold I drank 2 beers & came back. I got your letter this evening, was glad to get it, I got a letter form Mom & Max yesterday. It sure has been cold down here. It was 1 below this morning. Everything is a glare of ice. They

expect you to march on this stuff. Yesterday we went over about a mile to the gas chamber. We got over there & all it was was a tent out in the middle of a corn field. We stood over there about an hour & heard them talk on the damn gas mask. We were the last bunk to go through. We went through once with our masks on "then came back through took our masks off & went on out. The gas was all out by the time we went through & I couldn't even tell it was in there. Everybody was so cold, they couldn't hardly hold onto there equipment. We marched all the way back against the wind & when we got here the damn barracks orderly for the day had let the fire go out & it was down to 45 in here. He sure caught hell. This morning we were supposed to go out into the rifle circle, but they took us inside one of those barns down here & had our drill in there. It wasn't quite as bad as being outside but almost. We got some pretty warm clothes & about all that really gets cold is your feet & fingers (Rct. Platt just now walked up to me & asked me if I'd write a letter for him tomorrow. He wants to write to his girlfriend this time). I'll get real mushy & maybe he'll get one back. He had me to read a letter from his mother this morning. He's quite a guy. Speaking of guys, we have several boys from Cleveland, Ohio here. One bunks with me. His name is Parlo. There is also Olubus & a Yeremba too. They're all Polish boys. This Olubus & Yeremba are both hell of a nice guys. Yeremba is pretty short & he weights about 240 lbs. The third platoon is the last in the Co. when we're marching & Yeremba is the last man in our platoon. They put the short guys in the rear. The last platoon always has it tough because there is so much accordion works. Anyhow Yeremba falls out about every time we start double timing. This is kind of balled up but maybe you get what I mean. Platt just come back again & had me to read a letter from his girl. She surely ain't very old because she still goes to Clarks Hill school. I guess I'll have to write a letter for him tomorrow. I'll bet it sure is cold up there. A lot of our water pipes are froze up down here. I haven't heard from Mary yet. The chances will be pretty slim for me to get over there until I get six weeks in & then will start getting weekend passes. I can surely get over there then. I'll write her as soon as I hear. We are going to get a furlough around Christmas for sure, but other than that I can't tell you anymore. We get part of our Dec pay on the Dec 15 so as to have money for Christmas. We get our Nov pay on the 30 of Nov. Before I forget it this is the way to write my address. Lumor ? had me promoted to a Pvt already. I wish I was it is:

Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 45049801  
Co. B 502<sup>nd</sup> Abn Inf Reg  
101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div  
Camp Breckinridge, KY

They're pretty strict on addresses, is the reason I'm writing this down. When we first got here guys were putting mail in the box without stamps on them without a return address & even without the address on them, everybody sure got a kick out of it when someone was called out & told to put a stamp on it or an address. Well Bet I had better hit the sack. I just thought I'd write you this time as it really doesn't make any different. You all read it anyway. I'll have to start writing to some of the other people I promised to. Because they just don't understand what a feller does with all of his time. You don't have any time of your own here. PS Getting along fine-- Will write somebody in a few days. Love Clate.

Wednesday, 29 Nov 1950 – 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division – Camp Breckinridge, KY

Dear Folks,

It's noon and I just got back from chow so I'll try to write a few lines. This is the only chance I'll have time as I go on KP this evening. I haven't had time to write all week. Sunday I had 2 different details and then in the afternoon I had to write a letter to Platt's girl. I wrote one to H. Morgan also. Mon nite we were up until 11 o'clock cleaning rifles. Last nite (Tues) we went over for another shot. When we got over there there was about 2000 GI's getting shots,

too. When we got inside the furnace had blown up and the smoke was so thick you couldn't hardly breathe. When we got back it was about 9. We had to clean and oil rifles again. Tomorrow I'm on KP all day. 4:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. They take us by alphabetical order. So every one pulls KP. It has warmed up some today. About 40-45 degrees. It sure was bad here for 2 or 3 days, but I guess it was worse up there. I got your letter mom. I just had time to run over it while they were handing out mail. So I'll read it later and give you the news. We have been going to a lot of classes map reading etc. and a lot on the MI. I'll have to quit here. Time to fall out. Will write later about Fri night maybe. So write and I'm OK. Love Clate

Mon. nite (postmarked Dec 6) – Dear Folks, Well, I have some time of my own tonite so I'll write a few lines. Everybody is sitting around eating cookies and whatnot. Mon. mail call is always loaded with boxes. We were back out to the rifle range today. It snowed about all morning, three guys got caught smoking in ranks on the way out and our platoon had to pull the pit detail by ourselves. I spent about 6 hrs in the pits. We hid cardboards on 1x4s shaped like a man that we had to lift up and down. We got back in at 20 til 3. Tomorrow we got to get up at 4 again and hike 2 ½ miles out to the assault course. It's been pretty cold down here all day. We also got a new CO today. Lt. Albertson went to Bat. Hq. His name is Stoyne (Goynes?) I believe. Was you surprised to get a call from me. Max & me decided to call when we heard we weren't getting a furlough. We haven't heard any more yet. It never has come down from Battn. Hq. yet so we haven't lost hope intirely. We might get a 12 hour pass anyhow. Things are mighty bad when they cancel all furloughs that of week. They're just handing it out to the public a little at a time. All Hell is going to break loose before long, then you can look for things to really clamp down. (I'm eating a butterscotch Sundae right now & I'm getting it all over everything). By the way, I bought one of those Co. pictures (\$2 – I was aiming to bring it home, but now I'll have to mail it somehow), but don't expect it to soon. I'll have to take it up to the Post office & I think I'll have to pull guard duty this weekend. Glad to hear J's shoes fit. If he'll work a good coat of polish into the leather they'll soften up a lot. A lot of these boots have probably been stored a long time and they dried out. Esquire is about the last we can get down here, or Kiwi a lot of guys have threatened to go AWOL if they don't get a furlough. Two guys from A Co. are gone now. This place will float away in beer if they don't let some of them out of camp on Christ. I don't think I told you I got a letter from Larry's sister. They invited me over. Tell Bet I'll write them as quick as I can but she had better help me explain how it is here. But, if I do get a pass where I can get over to Henderson I'll get down to see them. I got a letter from Faye to. She's going to send me a box. If you can send me one sometime the next week or so, cookies, oranges, apples, nuts candy anything that can be eaten. I feel kind of guilty eating every else's stuff. Be sure to pack it good. Some boxes are tore all to Hell. I've been expecting Aunt Hazel's box to be that way. That will be Hell when a moldy manual ham sandwich comes rolling out. I had better get to bed. Let me know how much that telephone call was. Max put the call on through while he had the line and he just had the charges reversed. It makes it a lot simpler. I was a little afraid it might scare you. By the way, I just got paid the other day. There was about 12 in the co. that never. They paid me \$80. They've fouled up somewhere. Some guys got \$90 I should got around \$39 or \$41. That's what most of them got. Well write and give me all the news. That last letter was pretty good. Love, Clate P.S. Tell Dean W. to join the Air Corps if he thinks they are about to get him. But tell him to wait as long as he can. Also when he does join don't wait until winter and get his ass froze off going through basics. By the way how are all the neighbors?

No date, no envelope, just 'Sunday nite' but I think it goes here. Dear Folks, It's 6 o'clock & I just got back from chow. I'm pulling guard duty tonite. I had the first watch from 2 to 4



o'clock & now I'm off til 8. It was sure cold & its supposed to get down to 4 above tonite. Ive got a 8 to 10 watch & 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. yet to pull. That last one is really going to be rough. I walk around A CO (624 steps; 8 corners) J you know what you do at corners. Ha! I think I'll make some round corners tonite. Well enough for the damn guard duty. I don't remember when I wrote you last, or what I told you in the letter, so I may tell you something over. We have been studying machine guns & Bazookas a lot this week. We have machine guns tomorrow & then we fire the bazooks Tues. Maybe I told you we went out to the assault range last Mon & then we came right back without firing a shot; it was to slick. Anyhow we had to go out again yesterday afternoon to make it up. Its about 2 ½ or 3 mile out there Fri morn we took our first hike. We only had about 6 ½ 7 mil. We are getting a lot tougher, because hardly anyone complained about being tired when we got back. This damn Ky mud is sure hell. For some reason or other it wont dry up. Its just like soup. Well it looks like we are going to get a pass for Christ. If nothing else stops us we get off at Sat 12 noon until 11 o'clock Mon nite. Max wrote his folks for Ed to be here to pick us up. I guess he'll bring us back to. If nothing happens I ought to get in at about 6 o'clock or 7 o'clock. It just depends on the weather. But still don't look for me until you see me walk thru the door, because after they have changed our plans as many times as they have anything can happen. I think I told you once things are a lot more serious than people realize. When China threatened to declare war on us, that was just Russia using China's name. I've been getting several Christmas Cards. I got a letter & Christmas Card form Mrs. Husted. A box of candy from Aunt Hazel & one from Jim Thomas, I was surprised to get a box from Thomas's. I also got a Christmas card from them. I've been trying to find some Co. cards down here but the PX are sold out. It looks like I've got a lot of letter writing to do, or somebody is going to get sore, by the way, I got a letter form Bet & she said I should have go ta box from Faye by now. I've never gotten it up to yesterday eve (Sat). Maybe I'll get it tomorrow. There have been a lot of boxes coming in. It takes about a half hr for mail call anymore. By the way if you havnt got me anything for Chist yet, I would like to have a pair of fur lined leather gloves. But if you have I'll get them down here. Don't get them if you have all ready got me something. I would have like to get something for the kids, but I don't know what I could get for kids at a damn PX. I'll just give them the money & they can get whatever they want. I would have like to got them something because money doesn't seem like a present. Well I had better close here & maybe I'll see you next Sat. Love, Clate.

Post Marked Jan 9 8:30 a.m. 1951 – Camp Breckinridge KY

Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 55049801 Co B 502<sup>nd</sup> Abn Inf Rgt. 101<sup>st</sup> Abn. Div, Camp Breckinridge, Ky – to John W. Morgan RR 3, Crawfordsville, Ind.

Sunday afternoon 1:00 – Dear Folks,

Just a few lines before I go out. Max, Obudris, Yeremba and me are taking off this afternoon before they get more details. I had to help clean up the latrine this morning. Some of the others had to shove the walk off. It snowed about 3" last night. We were out to the rifle range yesterday all day. It was around 15 miles out there. We went out in trucks and they got lost. We were over an hour getting there. It was in the middle of nowhere. There are a lot of such places down here. It was muddy as hell out there. An ammunition truck marred down in the middle of a bean field and broke his winch and they finally sent for a wrecker to pull him out. We had classes on range estimation and in the afternoon we had squad practice – 8 riflemen and 1 B.A.R. would fire out of fox holes at targets that would popup at different ranges (300-800 yd). We were firing traces. It started snowing about 3:30 p.m. We were supposed to have an inspection by Lt. Col Brown yesterday while we were out but he didn't come yet when we got back. He was over at D Co. and we thought he would get to us, but he

never did get here. We G.I'd the barracks Thursday and Friday nights. We have an inspection by Gen. Ryan tomorrow and we have got to GI it again tonight. I forgot to tell you, they issued passes to anybody who wanted one last night (from 6 o'clock last night to 6 o'clock tonight). They have to be back tonight in order to help on that inspection. The weather was so bad I didn't take any about 1/3 of the CO. took passes. If they ever issue any from Sat. noon to Sun midnight I may try to come home in a few weeks. I could fly from Evansville to Indianapolis for \$5. The only thing that would foul me up is getting from Evansville back to Camp on Sunday night (that's \$5 just one way). Well I better sign off here. The schedule for next week is all out doors except 2 hrs so I may not get to write for awhile. Love, Clate

Again on the stationary of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne – no date and it has been taken out of the original envelope – dated Thurs. afternoon – I assume *Thanksgiving day* 1950– Dear Folks, just a line to send back by Servies. They got here at about 8:35 . it took 4 ½ hours to drive it. Max came in just now and said they were ready to leave so I'll have to hurry. I got the box OK. It sure looked good. I couldn't set there and eat it by myself so I just sent it around the barracks. You should have seen the guys go for those cup cakes. About everybody downstairs got something or other out of the box. I got what I wanted alright. The main thing I wanted to tell you was about our dinner. You never seen anything like it. We had turkey and all the stuff that went with it. Then they had pumpkin pies, bowls of fruit (grapes, oranges, bananas, etc) bowls of nuts, fruit juice, ice cream; a lot of different kinds of salad and then they had a pack of cigarets at each place. They had all the tables end to end. It's snowing like hell right now outside (1<sup>st</sup> since I'd been her). I wrote you last night also Max. Should get it Sat or Mon. I haven't got anymore letters since those two Mom from you & Bet. I had better stop because I imagine S. wants to get going. I'm fine especially after that dinner. Write me the news when you can. I had to fire the furnace all night last night. Told you in that letter you'll get. I'm sure sleepy today. Thanks again for the box. Love Clate

Tues eve (postmarked Dec 12 12:30 p.m. 1950– – Dear Folks, I suppose you're raising hell because I haven't written. The answer is still the same. I just havn't had time. It's getting worse every day. I thought I would get one wrote on Fri. nite. Instead we GI'd the barracks until 12:00. I suppose I had better go back a little and come up to date. The next day after I wrote that other letter I pulled KP. They got us up at 10 til 4 and we worked 17 ½ hrs right straight through, except about 15 minutes off for each meal. I scraped pots and pans until I was blue in the face. I sure had dishwasher hands. The funniest thing was the guy that fired the stoves and water heater. His name is Misrack and his Dad is filthy rich – anyhow I don't think he had ever seen a bunk of coal. If the fires went out and they did a dozen times. He sure got an "ass chewin." He's actually VP of the electrical wholesale factory his dad owns. I think the guy will go off his nut before he ever gets through basic. He's sure taking it hard. Like I said we GI'd the barracks Fri nite. We were short of mops and brooms so Max & me went out & stole some off of a fire escape. I'm going to have to stop pretty soon. The whistle blew there and we had to fall out. They said we are to go on the rifle range tomorrow. We got up at 4:00. I got a letter from Kate & Freddie last night. Just now read it. I suppose John got the shoes. They just cost \$6.26. Hope they fit. That EE was as wide as I could get. I got some wool pad socks. I'll bring home too. By the way we drew out of the hat for our furlough. I drew Dec 28-Jan 1. Or there close (5 days). Some guys got 10 days (Dec 23 – Jan 1) Some (Dec 23-28). I was just unlucky. Max got Dec 23-28. There is a lot of bitchin because some guys live way over in Ohio and they say it'll take all the time to travel. I'm not complaining because it's better than none. Everybody couldn't have 10 days. All the married guy sand guys that are going to get married got 10 days. (Sure a lot of guys getting' married). Platt was one I didn't see anything

in her letter that said she would – HaHa! The weather hasn't been bad down here lately but it started snowing this eve. I suppose it is bad up there. I got a letter from Bet & Pudge sometime last week. Tell them not to look for a letter to son. I just can barley find time for this one. I've got to clean and oil my rifle yet and there some one hollered mail call. Well I got a letter form you and one from Bet. About Christmas, I don't know of anything I need unless its another pocket knife. Max wants to get me a camera. Why don't you all go in together and get it if you want to. I can't think of anything else right now. I can't even think period. The war sure does look bad. They give us the news about everyday and it looks like we could get our ass shipped over by spring easy enough. You think they're talking about it up there you should be down here. If it gets much worse you can look for all furloughs to get canceled. So don't bank on it. Well I'll stop here. How is J& Ray getting along down in the woods and let me know the rest of the news. I'm fine except for a little cold. Love Clate – send a few stamps.

Jan 4, 1951 – still at Camp Breckinridge only now a Pvt – Wed. nite – 8 o'clock – Dear Folks, I was just getting ready to write when they hollered mail call. I wasn't expecting a letter so soon. I was aiming to tell you that I thought they were going to give you the allotment because I got paid yesterday & I got \$12. So I was pretty sure you was going to get it. I figured I would get around \$35 per month so that's about what I got \$20 before Christ & \$12 now. We got down here about 10 o'clock; Max got a letter from his Mom & she said Ed got back at 6:30 the next morning. He stopped in Cloverdale & slept awhile & ate breakfast in Greencastle. I'll bet he was dead when he got in. The next morning we had a class on patrolling. It rained all morning about & we crawled on our bellies up a damn ditch about 300 yds. It took us about an 1 ½ hrs. I was soaked to the skin, besides the mud. It didn't do much good to wash my field jacket. When we came back in at noon we thought we would have the afternoon off to clean our rifles & clothes, but after dinner we went out about six miles & fired the 50 cal. Machine gun. It rained all afternoon out there too. We also had a demonstration on the flame thrower the last hour out there. We were pretty miserable last night but I guess everybody took it all right though because I didn't see anyone go on sick call today. Today we got up at 4:30 & we went out to the rifle range & fired the BFR. It rained about all morning out there too bad it wasn't too cold today & it wasn't so bad. We ate chow out there. We finally got all the ammo. Fired up & we came back in at 3 o'clock & they let us have the rest of the day off to clean up & GI the barracks. Well I've run out of space & time so I'll quite & write later. Write whenever you have a chance Love, Clate

No date but should go about in here – Sun nite – Dear Folks – I havn't anything to do so I'll write a line or two. It sure has been a pretty day here today. I have just been laying around all day. Max left yesterday at noon. He came back over last night. He is in a processing center over there. He checks through all of the papers of guys like me when we ship out to see that there are no mistakes & the like. He said it will probably be a little hard for awhile until he gets on to it. It sounded like a pretty good job though compared to mine. The Gray boy from Waynetown went to another company. He is going to be a truck driver. There were about a half dozen who are in the same thing, a lot of men went to other companies to be cadre. The McAnulty boy from N. Ross is going to get a discharge. I don't know anymore than that. Titus is going with me & so is Olubus & Zeremba Misrick, the rich boy is going to Stoneman too & it has him about worried to death. Well I had better stop here. The main thing I wanted to tell you is that they won't let us leave until morning right after breakfast. I guess they wont let anybody ship out at night. So it may be about noon before I get there. Platt & the Horn boy went home this weekend & they're brining Horn's car back. He has a 49 Mercury so it shouldn't take us long to get there. We went up last night at 5 & got another shot. I had 5

pinicillin shots over at the hospital & then I had to take 3 more & that 1 last night when I got back here. Well that's all I can think of right now.

Jan 30, 1951 – (Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 55049801 Co A Replacement Bn, Camp Stoneman, Calif postmark)

Dear Folks, Well, I think this is the first letter I've written in three weeks. I'm barracks orderly again today. I took it for Northrop who wanted to go on a pass so I told him I would take it. It sure has been hell to. It has rained and misted about all day. On top of that we didn't have any coal in the company until just now they brought a load I had to wheel it down from the guardhouse in a wheel barrow. I had the 6 to 10 shift last night. Max is pulling guard today. They went on at 2 yesterday afternoon & they got off at 3 today. It sure has been rough on them. It really poured last night. Max was in awhile ago & he was just about pooped out. He had been on four watches (2 hr). He was through but they wont let anyone go until 3 o'clock. Sat afternoon we had a Regimental parade for Gen. Ryan. I couldn't tell how it was because all you can see when you're in one is helmet liners. J knows how that is. It don't look like I'll be getting home anymore on weekends. I think we have all day next Sat & then Monday we go on bivouac. We'll be out from 12 to 14 days. I don't know just when we'll get in. If we come in before Sat, we'll probably get Sat. afternoon off. That'll be about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in Feb. Well only have one more week here after that. Nobody knows where we're going after that. Some of the 6 weeks basics have been shipped to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas to the Medics. Last Friday we went out to range 23 & we had to walk back. It was about 14 miles. We started at 1 o'clock & got in at 5:15. It wouldn't have been so bad, but we had to walk flank guard. I walked it once. They put a whole squad out on each side of the road about 50 yd & you are supposed to keep up with the rest of the Co. We had wore our overcoats out that morning & when I was on that flankguard I was ring & wet. We went accross corn fields through hedge rows & accross creeks. One time one of the squads passed right in behind a farm house & out come a woman madder than hell. I could imagine what she said. The boys crawled right over her garden fence & she was still cussin as far as I could see. Well I had better sign off here. We have the mortar the first 3 days next week & Sat. we're on the range with the BAR. By the way I'm a Pvt now. It's a little different. It's signed Pvt-1 or something like that. You had better just sign Rct yet until I found out for sure. I don't get anymore pay though. They have just done away with Rct. Well they have called "chow" so I had better get down there. Write when you can & I'll let you know if I find out where I'm goin. Love Clate – PS Have they heard from Harold yet. I haven't heard from you yet. (another word – looks like think?)

Feb 1 postmark 12:30 p.m. Airborne Division Breckinridge, Kentucky to John W Morgan, RR 3, Crawfordsville, Indiana—Dear Folks, just a few lines while I have time. I got paid tonight (\$30). That's just about what I thought I would get. It has been snowing all afternoon here. It's about 3 inches deep now & its supposed to get 6 inches deep by morning. It has been pretty cold down here the last few days but I guess its that way everywhere, A company is out on bivouac this week & I imagine they are really sufferin'. It don't look much better for us next week, even if it gets warmer the damn snow will probably melt & it will be a mess then. We started out this week on the mortar & after a day & ½ they stopped us because we only had one mortar for us to work with. Tell J. they're bringing out a 6 inch mortar now. We were studying the 60 mm. The last 2 days we have been on Squad tactics. I don't imagine I'll be home anymore until I get out of here until it's the last week. I got your & Bets letter & I'm sending Lois Ann a \$1 for her birthday. Well Max wants me to go to the show so I had better close & write later. I really can't think of anything to write about anyhow. We have had a few hints that well all be busted up when we leave here. Some will go to school, artillery, etc.

That's the way they've been doing the 6 wk guys, but there haven't been any 14 weeks leaving yet as we were about the first to get here. But that's about what I figure we'll be doing. I think I told you that some have gone to Texas to the medics. Well I'll close & maybe I can write Sat or Sun but if you don't here from me for a couple of weeks you'll know I'm on bivouac. I don't know how writing conditions will be out there so you may not here from me until I get back. Write when you can. Love, Clate

March 19 – dated Tues nite 6:30 – Dear Folks, just a few lines before I go over to see Olubas. He just got in last nite. They didn't leave Cleveland until 12 midnite Sunday. I guess it was in the papers & on the radio about 30 some soldiers on their way to Korea being stranded at the airport. Four guys from our CO (1 that's my old CO B) got their shipping order yesterday eve & they left this afternoon. They're flying to Japan. They had no idea why they were pulled out. We're through processing now. Yesterday we were at the theater all day. They gave us a lot of bull on Korea & the like. For today we got paid this morn. They gave everybody about \$36. That's what I got. This afternoon I got picked in a detail clipping grass along a sidewalk around the orderly room. I'll probably have to pull KP in another day or two. It takes about 100 KPS per day. You see they just feed 5000 per meal and it takes 3 hrs per meal to feed that many. SO I'm really looking for to that. The chow is pretty good considering they feed so many. They have milk about every meal. I hear you had about 6" of snow. The weather out here is really nice. It gets up to about 75 in the shade in the day time & down to about 50 at night. We leave all the windows & doors open at night & only one blanket over us so you see it isn't very cold. In fact its to hot to sit out in the sun in the daytime, a lot of the flowers are in bloom also. (Before I Forget it you can write me here at that address). I don't imagine I'll be pulling out for about 10 days yet. We handed our overcoats in today. I could have sent it home but I didn't want the damn thing & the linepostage on 22 lbs would have been more than it was worth. I also have to send my Ike jacket home or hand it in. I don't know what I'll do yet. I also have an extra poncho. I may try to send some of that stuff home in that hand bag. Well that's about all the news I have for right now so write when you can. Love, Clate

No date, no envelope, but this seems to go in here – Sun 10 a.m. – Dear Folks, We got in here this morning about 5 o'clock. We landed in Oakland at 6 this morning, that is really 4 o'clock but I hadn't set my watch back yet. The last part of the trip wasn't to bad, but I got awfully tired. We landed once more at Bakersfield, Calif for gas & then came on to Oakland, San Francisco & Oakland together are sure pretty at night. They brought us out to camp by bus. It took us about an hour to drive it. We went through Oakland & through towns & up hill & down hill so much I don't know which way we came. There are mountains all around here. There are mountains about a mile over west here. The grass is real green & they look like they have been mowed like a golf course. There aren't very many trees on them & they sure are pretty. It was pretty cool when we go tin but it is real warm here now. I talked to a guy from A Co. & he said they have been alerted & he thought they would leave sometime this week. He said they told him they were going to Japan for more training & they even told them what ship they were leaving on. So it don't look like they are keeping it very secret. We got a lot of equipment this morning (Helmet, shovel, pack & sleeping bag). Well, I wrote a little on a couple of cards & got in Amarillo, Texas, but I'll try to tell you a little more. I could have come home Friday nite, but it would have been late when I got in & I would have had to left by 8 or 8:30 & I didn't think it was worth it. If they had of told us the damn plane wouldn't be in until 2 o'clock I might have come home. We was supposed to leave at 10 & then when 10 came they said it would be 12:30 so 2 o'clock rolled around before we finally pulled out. I don't think much of riding an airplane, at least when it was one like that. The seats were hard as rocks & it

wasn't line wide & the frost stood out on the walls. You couldn't hear yourself think. Well I've wrote about all the news. I'll have to find out a return address before I mail this letter. I'll write more later if I hear anything. Love, Clate – PS I may try to write a letter to Max sometime today – don't try to write me yet.

March 22 1951 --8 p.m. -- Postmarked Stoneman, Calif – Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 55049801 Co A Replacement Bn, Camp Stoneman, Calif – Wed nite 6:30 – Dear Folks, Just a few lines to let you know I've been alerted & probably will ship out Fri. I'm up here at the service club. I brought my bag up to send it home. It is shipped COD so you can look for it in about 5 days or a wk. Everything is OK out here. It has been cloudy all day & a little bit cooler. I told you to write me but I doubt if I get the letter before I ship out so don't try to write anymore. It will probably come back to you. There were four guys that shipped out by plane yesterday for Japan (I think I told you that in the last letter). They sure are shipping out a mess everyday. Most go out about the middle of the night. There is a shipment out of A Co. going tonight. They're called the advance party. That's why I think will ship Fri. Well that's about al the news for now so if I do ship Fri I'll try to write once more before I leave. Love, Clate. PS Save some clipping on the state final BB games. I heard Muncie Central won.

No date, no envelope but think this goes about here – Thurs eve 6 o'clock – Dear Folks, Well I pull out in the morning. We get up at 3, eat at four & fall out at 5:15 ready to go. We turned in our bedding & drew our rifles this afternoon. On my way back to the barracks who do I see standing in front of the next barrack but the Surface boy. I knew he would be out some time today & had intended looking for him tonight but there he was planted right beside me. We're up here at the service club now. He's sending some clothes home. He is the only one in his outfit in that barracks. He don't know anybody nor whether he stays in the engineers or what. I don't think I'll have any trouble telling you where I'm at but just in case I do, I'll give you the code again, so there will be know mistakes. Use this code in case its different

Mr. John – for Japan

Plain John – for Korea

A debt for my division

& Birthday for Germany. I know that's right but just to make sure. Well that's about all the news for now so I'll write again whenever I can. Love Clate

March 23, 1951 – Fri morn 9 a.m. – same address as above – Dear Folks, Just a few lines in with this picture. I'm on a harbor boat taking us to San Francisco to get on the ship. It takes about 4 hrs to get there. There is a pretty nice ride so far. They are starting to feed now, it will take a good while before they get to me as my line no. is 1428. The bay comes all the way into Pittsburgh if you'll look on a map. There are mountains along one side of us & they are sure a pretty sight. You can write to this return address. I'm pretty sure its right. You write Surface's folks & give them my address. He is going to have them give you his. There might be a chance that I could see him again in case we got to Japan. I still think I'm going to Japan. I wrote Max & Buck last night after I wrote you. You can give her this address Casual Personel Center, APO 613 c/o Postmaster San Francisco, Calif. I suppose she knows my serial no. My name goes before that too. Well that's about all I can tell you now. Love, Clate

April 5 – Thurs night – Dear Folks, Just a few lines to let you know I'm on land again. It's 11:30 p.m. so I won't try to tell you much. We got in to Yokhoma, Japan at about 3 yesterday afternoon. We started seeing land about 9 a.m. We didn't get off the ship though until today at 1 p.m. We rode on a train out there to Camp Drake. It was a 3 hr ride through Yokohama &

Tokyo. About 25 miles. It was a sight I'll never forget. The crossing took us 11 days. It wasn't bad at all. I never did a thing all the way across. We went wherever we wanted to. It was pretty stormy & rough about 4 days. I never got a bit sick (J. would believe that). The chow on the ship was pretty poor but they had a PX on board so we got along pretty well. We just got done processing for the night. I made out an additional allotment of 420 so you'll get the first one I think in June. It looks like we'll be here till Sat (day after tomorrow) then to Pusan. I won't have a permanent address until I get my mail by this one til then. You'll probably get this one in about a week & before yours catches up with me it will probably be another 2 weeks. I'll try to write whenever I get a chance. Write & give me all the news. Love Clate PS We skipped a day & set our watches back 9 hrs all together from CST so you can figure out what time it is here. I think it I about 9 a.. Wed morn there while it is Mid Thurs here. HA (Larry can probably straitin you out on that time). Don't worry if I shouldn't get to write again for awhile.

April 9 –8 p.m. Mon nite-- Dear Folks, I don't know when I'll get this letter marked. Well, I'm on the last leg of the journey. I'm on a ship now. We got on about 2 this afternoon. We'll be there in the morning at 7:30. I've really been on the move lately. I spent one day & ½ on a train. We came clear down to the southern tip of Japan. It was really a wonderful ride. A guy just never gets tired of looking at this country. You can't imagine nor could I ever tell you just what it is like. You just want to cry when you see how these people have to work and slave to eek out a living & I understand they're living a 100% better than they ever did before. I don't suppose a truck would have held all the candy & cigarettes the GIs through to the kids on that trip. T he people are all real friendly. Most of this country is mountains. They farm right up the side of the mountains. It seems like you go out from little village right into another. I think we went through a 100 tunnels on the way. We've got several new clothes since we've been here in Japan. The army has a new overcoat that is really nice. Of course it is to heavy for combat. We got a wool-lined pile jacket & cap also. By the way before I forget it I owe John 7 dollars. I wish you would pay him for me. I have no permanent address yet. I won't have until I get to my outfit. I've told you to not write and then to write so much I'll bet you're really confused but go ahead and write as the guys are getting letters by that address. I got a letter from you postmarked the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. I got it on about the 5s24<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Well I don't know much else to tell you now. Just don't worry about me, I'm getting along fine the chow over here has been better than I ever had in the states. I'll write whenever I get a chance again, but don't worry if it ever runs for quite a spell before you here from me. They are really shoving us arround. & its hard to get a chance. Love, Clate

Very hard to read – quite smudged and on old memograph paper but there is a letter from Headq 7<sup>th</sup> Division telling about the division whose history began in WWI and has progressed without tarnish through campaigns in the Aleutians, Pacific Island, occupation duty in Korea & Japan and now in being made by men like this our newest arrivals. Duties may seem arduous and difficult at times, devotion to duty will be demanded...Maurice F. Powers, Chaplain Lt Col US Army

Soldiers Name: Charles C. Morgan

Unit Address: 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt 7<sup>th</sup> Div APO 7, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco Calif Soldiers Rank & Signature Pvt Charles c> Morgan US 55049801

4:30 p.m. April 11, 1951 – Dear Folks, Just a line or 2 to let you know I got into the 7<sup>th</sup> Div Replacement Center about noon today. We'll probably pull out tomorrow. I don't know much else. This country is sure tore to hell. Nothing but mountains & rock. I expect we'll go on up by truck. I'll try to write more later. Love, Clate

April 17 – Noon Tuesday – Dear Folks, Just a line or two to let you know I'm ok. We're up here about 7 miles from the 38<sup>th</sup> taking 5 days training before we go to our regular outfits. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. The 31<sup>st</sup> regt was in reserve when we came in & we have just been moving up behind the lines. Last night was the first night I had slept in a place twice since we left Camp Drake, Japan. It is pretty cool here of nights but it gets real nice in the day time. It hasn't rained any since we came into the reg't. In fact it is pretty dusty when the wind blows. The 31<sup>st</sup> is supposed to relieve the 17<sup>th</sup> pretty soon so it looks like I won't much more than hit my company than we'll be going on line. Those damn mountains are hell. They're just right straight up & then down & up again. The one on the other side is just a little higher. There are no towns left. Maybe once in a while you will see an old mud hut sticking around on a hillside but that's about all. In other words this is the "shit hole" of the world. When we were back at Chechon they brought us on up by truck. We started at 10 that morn & got in at 11 that night. There was about 50 trucks in the convoy & we had to ford a river about 6 times. The trucks would get stuck & it was a hell of a mess. Since then we have walked (yes) every time we move. I'm pretty soft after laying around for so long but I guess I'll get hardened in a hell of a hurry. The chow is pretty good so far. I've eaten in about 6 different places & they all feed pretty good. I should get a permanent address in a few days. I'll write as soon after as I can. Keep track of the dates on the letters you have wrote. Love, Clate.

April 21 – 7 p.m. – Dear Folks, Well I'm in my Co. now. I sent a card as soon as I got in with my address. That will be my permanent address now. Just in case it gets smeared up here it is again: Co. A 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt APO 7 c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif. This is the second day I've been here. We had a big field inspection by the 10<sup>th</sup> Corps Commander & of the Div commander. We stood out there all day. It sure was a dilly. Everything just so so. We are sitting right on the 38<sup>th</sup> now. In fact, I'm on the North Korea side. I'm in the 4<sup>th</sup> squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon. They put me on a bazooka as assistant gunner I don't know how long I'll stay there. There are a lot of guys going home on rotation. Some guys have been over here since last August. The first 3 grade Sgts have to stay until somebody can take their place. They sure are crying the blues. It looks like this bet rank in the army is still the old Pvt. So maybe I'll be home by Christmas even if the war isn't over. I look for it to end sometime this summer though. If it does I may have to pull some occupation. I'll gladly stay just so I don't have to spend a winter here fighting. Well it's getting dark so I had better stop. Just thought I would drop a line or two & let you know I'm ok. Love, Clate PS None of my old outfit are with me.

April 22 – post card – Pvt Charles c. Morgan Co A 1<sup>st</sup> BN 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt APO 7 c/o Postmaster san Francisco, Calif To: John Morgan RR 3, Crawfordsville, Ind – Noon Fri April 20, 1951 – Dear Folks, I'm just sitting around waiting to be shipped to my outfit. I should have a permanent address by then & I thought I would get this car ready to send out. I hav'nt got anymore letters since that one I got at camp Drake, you had just got the car back. It has been pretty cool here the last 3 days. It rained yesterday morning. I don't know anything else right now. Love, Clate

April 27, 1951 – Dear Folks – I will try to write a few lines while I have a little time. It's sure been hell the last few days. We've been on the move continually. We climb one mountain & stay over night & then climb another the next day. It takes about 2 hrs to climb one & about 1 hr to come down. You think you are going to die before you get to the top. It wouldn't be so bad but you've got a full field pack our rifle & I've been carrying 5 rounds of bazooka ammo. The last day or two, I think I told you I'm in a machine gun squad. I've had to help carry it some too



& sometimes I carry a box of ammo for it. It all adds up to about 80 lbs. The Chinks have hit us pretty hard lately A Co is the only company that hasn't been hit the last nite or two. I think the 7<sup>th</sup> Div is the only one still across the 38<sup>th</sup> & it looks like we're going to have to pull back too. The nights are pretty rough. Four hrs is the most I've ever gotten the last 4 nites. Last nite I only got about 2 ½ hrs. The chinks started blowing whistles about 3 o'clock & that was about the end of the sleep. It was probably a patrol out. That's the way they keep in contact with one another. The whistles are real soft & one will blow over to your left & then another to your right. They'll keep that up until almost day light. Our Co. commander got hit by some of our artillery that fell short last night. They took him out by hylocopter (sic) this morning. About all the guys talk about is rotation about a day or two after I got to my squad a guy left on rotation & when they told him he almost went crazy. He left just in time as we pulled out that same night. I guess if there is a "hell on earth" it is here, because when you see men cry after climbing for about 2 hrs up one of these damn mountains, you know it's bad. Once you're up there at night its just about fight or die, because it would practically be impossible to come down one at night. You might not believe it but a lot of guys want to get hit just so they can get out of here. I just as soon walk out in one piece myself, but most of these guys have been over her from 5 to 8 months & they've just about lost all hope. Well that's about all the space I have for right now. I'll probably be getting some mail in about another wk. Love Clate. (I guess it takes about 2 wks after you get to your co before you get any mail).

April 28 – noon – Dear Folks, I guess by the time you read this all the news will be stale. We pulled back about 20 mile day before yesterday & dug in. We were supposed to pull back some more today, but we've sat here all morning & they havn't give us the word yet to pull out. They just sent out a tank patrol to contact them again. We expected to get hit last night but they didn't come our luck will have to run out one of these nights. We havn't been hit yet. These nights are pretty rough. I don't know when I've had more than 4 hrs sleep any one night last. When we pulled back we walked 17 miles fully loaded. They had hot chow when we got in that night. After eating C rations for 3 days it sure tasted good. The weather has been pretty nice here so far. It did rain a couple of nights ago. It gets pretty cool at night but it warms up in the day time. I don't think I told you about the guys in my squad. The squad leaders name is Devillier. He's from Texas & I guess that about explains him. He sure is a blow gut. So is another guy from Arkansas by the name of Cossey. There is a Davis from Tennessee, Polton from Calif, I think & Hewett from Mich. Those three are pretty nice guys. There was a new guy named Callous from Missouri that came in a couple days after I did. I don't think I told you that there was a Morgan that left on rotation the day I came to the Co. Well I guess that's about all the news I have right now. I guess all this withdrawal started over around Seoul. The Gooks really poured down on them which you probably have read about by now, a GI gets less news than anybody as far as what goes on. Guys pick up a little on the telephone but that's about all we get. So any interesting items in the paper send along as I would like to know how the Korean War is coming along too. "HA" Well I've got to climb down this mountain for chow so will stop here, Love, Clate.

May 2 – 7 p.m. – Dear Folks (this on a nice Mother's Day card May 13) – Dear Folks, Just a line before I get ready for bed. The Division moved from the central part over to between Lucham & Seoul yesterday. We came over by truck about 50 mile I think. The 31<sup>st</sup> is in reserve right now. They don't know when or where the Chinks will hit next. If they break through somewhere we'll be sent to plug a hole. We've just layed around all day today, it sure is nice. This part of the country is more thickly settled than where we came from. Still al mountains though. I suppose there is some talk about this new Red offensive back there. Don't worry about it. One mountain

is just as good as another to fight on. The only way we can win this war is kill a million or so of these Chinks & that is going to take a long time. That's about all I have for now. I'm sorry I haven't anything to send you Mom for Mother's Day so promise me you'll spend the 1<sup>st</sup> Class E allotment you get on yourself. Love Clate – along the side of the stationary/card is this note: I'm getting along fine. Don't worry.

May 6 – 12 noon – Dear Folks, I've got a little time so I'll write a few lines. Somebody said today is Sunday so it's about 8 o'clock Sat night there. We've moved a couple times since I wrote you last. My platoon was on a road block for day & night & then we moved to here. That was day before yesterday. We kicked about 7 mile right through the mountains. It rained all afternoon & that night. Everybody was sure miserable when we got in that night. I never got dried off all night. Yesterday we had to go work on the road. It's more like a trail. Jeeps is the only thing that can get through. They airdropped our supplies in yesterday about noon. Then we had to wade out across the rice paddies & carry them out. We've just sat around this morning. I didn't have to go work on the road. I wrote Max a couple or three days ago. If you want to send me a box of something put it in metal containers & it will keep a lot better. I think I told you it takes about a month & a half to get a box. A fellow told me the other day you can get a box by airmail in about 10 days but it costs ninety cents a lb that way. I never have got any more letters. I'm just hoping you're getting mine. One guy here got a letter from his mother & she hadn't hear from him in 7 weeks & he said he had written every week. She was about worried to death. I have no idea how long we'll set here. It seems like we're a hundred mile from nowhere. Well that's about all the news I have now. If I ever here from some of you, I'll try to write some to others but there isn't much to write about I'm getting along ok. Love, Clate

May 11 – 12:30 – Dear Folks, Well I've finally started to get my mail. I got four last night. One was from Bet dated April 8 saying Ma had died. That's the first I knew of it. This part is for that letter. She asked me if any of my old outfit are with me. I think I told you I'm the only one in my Co. 2 other guys went to Hq Co. About the Surface boy. There is a new guy in my squad that took engineers training with him. He knows him well. This boy's name is Weber from south of Indianapolis. He thought Surface went to the 24<sup>th</sup> Div. He could have come right to my squad as Weber & him were still together until they split them here in Korea. Well that's about all for that letter, I got a letter from Max dated May 2. She said there had been a big plane crash at Fort Wayne while she & Buck were down home. I also got a letter from Dean Wininger. Sounds like he's going to let them draft him. Maybe the damn war will be over by then but I doubt it. There seems to be no end to these Gooks, I guess Congress is really in a battle over MacArthur etc. In a way I think he's right by wanting to bomb Manchuria. To hell with Russia. We just as well find out now if she'll takle us. This damn ware is costing the US millions every day that it goes on. It's just like killing flies. You have to destroy their breeding (sic) place or you can squat them all day long & can't tell you've killed any. The planes have really been pounding hell out of them this morning but tonight they could still roll down on us by the thousands. If you'll look on a war map you'll see a sag in the lines east of Seoul. We're waiting for them to hit us hard here & then they're going to withdraw & then level off these mountains with artillery & mortars. It's called "operation Gateway" so we'll watch & see what becomes of it. I guess I never told you I got the letter written April 30. I had just got back the night before from taking Old Lady Eggers stuff. I expect it's a pretty good idea to quit Ray. When it gets hot he probably would be looking for timber all the time & J & Kelley would do the work. Hell J's got enough equipment without Ray & Ray sure as hell can't hurt you any after you do quit him. By the way how did the hogs come out. Did they have many pigs. By the way that letter I got in Japan you said Pudge had just called about something they would know about soon or something. You sure left me hangin by my finger nails. Did Pudge ever write me.

I'll try to write her in a few days. Well that's about all for now. Will write again in a few days. I'm getting along ok. Love, Clate

May 12 –4:00 p.m. == Dear Folks, I've been waiting to hear from you but I havn't yet so I'll go ahead & write a few lines anyway. I got a letter from bet on the 7<sup>th</sup> I think & J wrote here the next day. They said there would be some mail come through this evening but it hasn't yet. There hasn't been any come through the last 2 or 3 days. It's about 10 mile back to the CP but they manage to get us a hot meal at noon each day. We eat C-rations for breakfast & supper then I forgot to tell you that we really have good chow when they get it to us but damn the C-Rations. We've just been setting here the last few days. Some of the platoon has been working on the road & yesterday we went back on the next hill & dug in there so if we get hit very hard we are supposed to pull back there. Tomorrow we are supposed to go on a 3-day patrol with B&D Co's. That will really be rough as hot as it has been. It has been hitting around 80 or 90 degrees here the last few days & I imagine we'll sweat our hind ends off. We've got 2 more men in the lst 3 days. One is a damn nigger. That makes 10 men in our squad now. 5 of us are new men. They're sending a man or 2 every few days on rotation now. I heard that all the 6 mos. Men will be out of here by the middle of June. Well that's about all the news I have right now, I'm getting along fine. Love, Clate

May 16, Note: Most of the latter letters do not have enveloped – 11 a.m. Dear Folks, I haven't written for a few days so while I have a chance I'll write a few lines. We are still here in the same place. It rained all day and night before last. Aobut 26 was without a letup. It stopped yesterday but was cloudy all day. The sun is shining bright but the wind is blowing and it's pretty cool here this morning. I haven't heard from any of you since I got a letter from Pudge except last night I did get a letter from Bet dated April 1<sup>st</sup> & one from Florence dated about the 13<sup>th</sup>. She is sure worried about Rich. She supposed I was seeing a lot of beautiful country – HA!" We have been getting two hot meals a day lately breakfast & supper. By the time you climb back up here thought you're about as hungry as ever. We had fried chicken last night & they even brought fresh fried eggs for breakfast this morning. The chow is plenty good enough all the time as far as that's concerned. Well there isn't much else to write about so I'll close here & maybe when I here from you I'll have more to write. Love, Clate

May 19 – 11:00 a.m. – Dear Max & Buck, I'm not sure what the date is but the 19<sup>th</sup> is pretty close. I've lost all track of the date the last 4 or 5 days. We've been on the move again since I wrote you last. Two nites ago they got us up at 11 & said we were moving out. We walked until 1:30 & got on trucks. We rode until about 6:30 the next morning. We took over the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines positions. It rained about all night the next nite. It sleeted about 1 ½" in about 10 minutes too. It was cloudy all day yesterday but the sun is shining today & it is some warmer. Well it is 4:10 p.m. now. I got held up for awhile. A Lt. from Bn Hq. slipped up on me & Davis & started giving us hell about our foxhole. It turned out the one he was raising hell about wasn't even ours. He had to say something about ours though so he said it could stand to be a little deeper. I felt like telling him to try digging a few holes on these damn rocks a few times. We dug until he left & then quit. This afternoon I went down & took a bath & cleaned up in the river. It sure felt good on the way back up I picked up my mail. I got five letters. 3 from Mom (April 16, Apr 21<sup>st</sup> & May 12) 1 from Max Servies April 15 & Bet April 19. I'm surely about caught up on this back mail. Bet's letter told about Ray Hardacker dieing. Word came in awhile ago that they have spotted a whole corp of Chinese out in front to f us. Our patrol surely run into them because about an hr ago there was a lot of small arms fire about 1000 yds out. About a ½ doz jets came in pretty soon & they mauled hell out of something for about a ½ hr. Well Max that's

about all I can think of for now. Love Clate PS If you ever ask me something & I forget to tell you ask me again in the next letter.

May 20 – 7:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, Well, I got five letters this afternoon so I feel pretty (*good*) now & will write a few lines. I got three from you (April 16, Apr 21<sup>st</sup> & May 12) 1 from Bet April 19<sup>th</sup> & one from Max Servies (Apr 15). I wrote Bet yesterday & Max & Buck today. We have moved again but Bet's letter has got all the details on that. It has been pretty nice here today but it looks like rain again tonite. The planes have been working on them today & the artillery & Mortarts works on them all nite, a squad patrol out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon was out all day today (but they didn't see a thing). I took a bath & shaved this afternoon & wrote a letter to Max is about all I got done. Well there isn't much else I can tell you as things are pretty quiet now. I guess I have been writing some pretty gruesome letters. Don't think I'm up here by myself. If they do hit us some night they're sure as hell going to be "hurtin." We've got everything but BB gun pointing down this mountain side, besides Mines trip flares & barbed wire out in front of us. Then there are 3 tanks setting down by the river. So you see it's not so dangerous as it might seem. So don't let me worry you to much. I'm just one in 250,000 over here. Well you asked me what about the \$7 I owed J. Don't you remember I said I would mention a debt to tell you what Division J was in. That was before I knew they didn't censor the letters. But now you can tell what outfits you're in. I got a good laugh out of that. I'll bet you're still wondering. I hope I have straightened you out. If you can make any debts in my name go ahead, then when they try to collect tell them to see me I'm in Korea, "ha Ha!" I should have been here when J. bought the refrigerator. I think we're setting pretty close to the center of Korea now. We took over for the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines. You might be able to see where they were on a map. I'm just going through your May 12 letter & writing things down as I run into them. About the Surface boy. He was probably like me a million different addresses before he gets to his outfit. Let me know what Co he is in & I'll write right away. Who is this Mary Thomas. It must be Kate's sister. She must be a hell of a lot different from Kate, & how did Kate jim the works (?) Well it's going to get dark pretty soon so I had better get my equipment together. It don't pay to leave stuff laying here, there & everywhere because as sure as you do, you'll pull out in the middle of the night. Like last night they said we might pull off on an attack at 5 this morning or go on a Co. patrol. As it turned out we did neither & I was glad. I'm glad Pudge is getting Dale W. tonsils out. I've thought all along that is what he needs. He'll probably be just like CD grow like a weed. Tell Pudge to be careful with Toadie because polio can sure take a hold of a kid quick when they get run down that way. Well I had better ring off here for this time. I'll write Deanie a few lines. Wasn't that a sight about Roy H. Love Clate

May 28 – Noon – Dear Folks, Just a line to let you know I'm ok. I guess you can see by the papers what has been going on. It's been pretty rough but I got through OK. I'll write later & tell you more. I got your & Bet's letters written May 18<sup>th</sup> one from Max wrote 20<sup>th</sup>. I'm 20 miles north of Churchkon I've got to go eat chow now so maybe this letter will be enough now. Things are quieting down but don't worry if you don't here from me for a day or so because we're on the move. Love, Clate

May 31 – 6:30 p.m – Dear Folks, Just a line to let you know I'm ok. It has rained almost continually, the last few days. It quiet at noon today & the sun popped out as I dried things off. That's the way it does. It rains for about 24 hrs straight & then the sun will pop out in a ½ hr or be just as pretty as it can be. We have been on the move continually since about the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. We're sitting up here on top of a mountain right now just north of Hevarchon. I don't know whether it's big enough to be on a map or not. By the way I got your box on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We ate the candy right away but this afternoon was the 1<sup>st</sup> chance I had to open my peanut butter. When

we pulled out on this attack we left our packs behind. All we carried was a poncho. We got the packs back about the 26<sup>th</sup> but somebody else had took mine. We left them behind on a hike the next day & I lost my pack again, so I have had about 3 different packs the last 10 or 12 days. We're supposed to set here a couple days so I'll try to write more later. I've got 3 or 4 letters lately but I'm going to have to check the dates & I havnt got time right now as it looks like rain & I have got to prepare for night. I think I told bet but I'll tell you again not to worry if you don't here from me for several days. This damn rain really fouls things up. When youre on the move every day & it rains all the time its dam near impossible to write. Tell Max & the rest so they wont be expecting to here form me. This rainy season is supposed to last about six weeks. I'll write as often as I can & you keep sending clippings out of the paper on the war & so forth. I never have found time to read those clippings that were in the box. How did the race come out. PS I got a raise in pay or did you notice "HA" Love, Clate

June 12 – 6:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, Well its been quite a spell since I've wrote but I can't remember just when it was. I wrote you once or twice around the 28<sup>th</sup> I think it was. I've got about 2 letters form you & 2 from Bet & Max & I also heard from the Surface boy. He's in a Hq Co. He sure was lucky. I think I told you I got your box by airmail. It sure went good. When you send another make sure it is taped up a little better. The ends were tore loose but the rest was in good shape. We've been going so hard the last 16 days I havn't hardly had a chance to read my mail. When you're on the move you just don't have time to think hardly. So if you have asked anything that I don't tell you just ask me in the next letter. We were returned yesterday morning by the 17<sup>th</sup> & the 31<sup>st</sup>is back in Div reserve. I imagine will be back here about 5 days. We have just layed arround about all day today. Everybody was so tired out we could hardly get arround. They gave us a big turkey dinner today that sure went good. I always said the worst thing in a war is when it rains all day & is still raining that night with no place to go. That just about right. I think it has rained about 10 out of those 16 days & when you have nothing but a poncho it gets pretty rough before morning. We lost our Co. commander arround the 7<sup>th</sup>. It sure was a blow. He was a real guy. You would never know he was an officer. He was always right up front when the going got tough. We got a 1<sup>st</sup> John now that's surely not been here long. He seems to be ok but he's got a lot to learn. It don't take but one mistake over here & that's it. I'm not on the bazooka anymore. I'm just in a rifle squad. They put the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> squads together & made a squad out of it. They are supposed to get in some more replacements soon so I expect I'll be going back to the 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chinese sure took a loss on the last deal. I don't see how they take it. The roads are lined with trucks & equipment that the airforce has got. It looks like the ware is depending on how long Russia is willing to supply China. China has the men all right but if Russia stops the supplies she's done for. These Goods are lower than animals. I know we took one guy prisoner one day & tried to take him back & he just set his feet like a mule. We couldn't even drag him. We finally gave him a kick in the ass & turned him loose. Well I've got a lot of letters to write if we set here long so I'd best sign off & start on another one. I even did write Max S. I started one June 1 & never got it finished yet. Love Clate

June 14 – 7 p.m. – Dear Folks, I've got a little time before dark so I'll write a line or two. I wrote you a letter when we first got back here & I wrote a letter to Max & Buck & Max S. but I just got theirs mailed this evening because I couldn't find any envelopes. We're still sitting here in the same place. This made the 4<sup>th</sup> day, I imagine we'll be here for another 2 or 3 days before we go back up but you never know (on side of paper – Give Dale W & Deanie something for their birthday & take it out of my money). Before I forget it I wish you would subscribe for the Quick magazine for me. I get tired of sitting here in the dark all of the time. I get hold of a Stars & Stripes about 3 weeks old but that's about all the news I get. Another thing whenever you send me another small sharp pointed pair of scissors, just cheap ones for my toe nails for they'll

probably be lost after I use them once anyhow. Well it's trying to rain so I had better sign off here. They havnt had a mail call yet so I don't know whether I've heard from anybody or not. I havnt heard from Pudge for a long time. Well it's trying to get me wet so I've got to stop. Love, Clate 6:30 p.m. June 15 – I never did find an envelope to mail this letter so will try to ad a little to it. Well it's 3 o'clock the 17<sup>th</sup> now. I started that last and came another down pour. It's Sunday over here & we havn't done much today. It is pretty hot & sticky & I suppose it will rain tonite. We're still sitting here. I'm sure surprised but I'm sure not going to complain. It's just like heaven back here. They even have a shower set up & we have a movie about every other nite. I've only went to one & I fell asleep in the middle of it so I haven't gone to anymore. I've been getting about 10 hrs asleep every nite back here. I wake up as still as a board, a fellow falls asleep & never makes a move all night. Well I'm having a hard time finding something to write about, one reason I havn't mailed this letter I can't get hold of an envelope. Everybody is out & can't get any through supply. I haven't got any mail for about a week now. I don't know whether its just not getting here or you're slowing up. Seems like I have to write a letter to get one. You had better put an envelope & a sheet of paper in each letter for awhile & maybe I can write a little more regular as long as we're back like this. Somebody gets a rumor going about every day on the war. This guy's going home on rotation & those close up on the list sure sweat blood. I never have got it straight just how it works. They take about 2 Sgts, 2 Cpls & about 4 Pfc's per month out of each co. There are still a lot of the old guys that landed with the 7<sup>th</sup> at Inchon last sept. So its hard to tell how long a guy will have to stay even after his 6 months are up. They're going to have to ship a lot more men over here before they can get the ball rolling full swing. They havn't even got us in any replacements yet, after this last deal. I've got more hopes of the war ending & getting out of here before winter than getting out of here on rotation. It's going to be a long rough son of a bitch if we have to push the gooks back across the Yale ? Korea is a lot wider up north and it will take a lot more troops to do the job. Well Ive got to hunt an envelope somewhere before I mail this letter so I'll close here. Love, Clate

June 22 – 3 p.m. – Dear Deanie, I haven't got much to write about but I'll try to write a little as I think I owe you a letter. We have moved a couple times since I wrote home last. Then I wrote last we were back in reserve. We were in reserve for a week & then we moved back upon line. We were up there 3 days & then the 24<sup>th</sup> Div relieved us & we are back in reserve again. We are almost back to the 38<sup>th</sup> P. this time. They brought the whole Div back so we may be here for awhile. I hope so anyhow. When we moved upon line we started up this mountain & the guide got lost & took us up the wrong one. We had to come back down nearly to the bottom & go up a different draw to get up to where we were supposed to go. We had started up that morning at 9:30 & when we finally got up to where we were supposed to go it was 5:00 that evening & even then they came straggling in until about 7:00 o'clock. That was just about the roughest climb I ever had. From where we were you could see a piece of the Hwachon Reservoir about a 1 ½ mile over last. We came back on trucks & got in here about dark last night. We have just been laying around all day. I took a shower & got clean clothes and awhile ago, as we started up that mountain there was a house setting beside this mountain stream. Down along this stream there was a waterpowered feed grinder. I'll try to draw a picture of how it worked. Waterfall down to hollow in log to peg through log – hollowed out rock. The water fills the log & the weight tips the log up about 4', spills the water out & the log drops back down & mashes up the grain in the hollowed out track. The rock holds about 1 gallon of grain. You should try to work out something to run your lawn mower. Well that's about all I can think of right now. I was sure sorry to hear about Blackie. Was any of her kittens black. How many kittens do you have by now & how many pigs did you finally end up with. I'm sorry I couldn't send you & Dale something for your birthdays but I told Mom to give you some money & you can get what you want. Well I guess that's about all I can think of. Love Clates PS Tell Mom I

got a letter from P & 1 from Bet & the one from her telling about Blackie. I havnt got anymore for about 3 or 4 nites. Write me soon & let me know how it feels to be 13.

July 1 – on American Red Cross paper – 8:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, I wrote a letter to Bet last night but after I mailed it I happened to think she might be on vacation & it would be a good while before anyone would hear form me, so I'll try to write a few lines. I got a letter form bet today wrote the 23 and one from H. Morgan & one from May S. written the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. I don't know what happened to that letter. Harold said he only had a little more time to pull on Hawaii and he would be reassigned. He said he hoped so, damn he don't realize how good he has it, but I guess he'll always have that bed to sleep in. It has been awfully hot & dry here all week. We have been working on bunkers upon top of the mountain. It's called the Kansas line. It's offensive position, set up to stop the Chinks cold in cause they start another push. It is supposed to run from the west coast up diagonal & join on to Huchon Reservoir. I don't know how the other side runs. there sure a lot of rumors over the war ending. I sure hope they can get together. They have either got to now or go all out one. It could go on forever the way it is now if they don't get some more troops over here & start knocking hell out of them somewhere else. Well I guess that's about all I got for right now. They have a show about every night at Bn. That's down the road about a half mile so I think I'll go tonite. Love, Clate. P.S. I can't figure out what has got into Ray. I suppose he just got so hard up and he started taking a little her e7 there until he got in to deep. It sounds like the "Cat" is giving you a good deal of trouble. Has J. got it over hauled now. It should be in pretty good shape now. How is the car & truck running. Are they having any races at Jungle Park this year. How is J & Mary Thomas getting along. You haven't mentioned her lately. How is Nig getting along on his house. He surely has had to get out by now. You never did say how big he was building it. I'm getting along fine. I'm getting pretty good chow back here. I think it was Bet that asked me if I had lost any weight. I haven't lost much but I sure as hell ain't getting' fat either. Well that's about all I got. I'll try to write a little oftener but it's so hot during the day & eve that it's hard to get your thoughts together.

July 4 --4 p.m. (no envelope) – Dear Folks, I've got about an hr before chow so I'll try to write a line or two. I got Max's box today but the cake was molded. The rest of the stuff was ok. We came down off the hill at noon today. We had been up there two nites so we could get finished. We're leaving this place tomorrow morning so I thought I had better write a line or two in case I don't have another chance for a few dyas, I don't think we'l be going back upon line for awhile yet but you never know. I guess they're holding some kind of peace talk tomorrow over around Kaesong maybe they'll at least get a cease fire for a few days. We got seven cans of beer, and two coca colas, today when we got back. They taste mighty good even if they are hot as piss. You soon get used to that even the water is always hot, unless you find a spring somewhere in the mountains. I got a letter from Max wrote the 25<sup>th</sup> & one from Bet 23<sup>rd</sup>. A lot of guys are going home on rotation now, but there still seems to be a lot of old men left over here. I've only got one old man left in my squad. I don't think I ever told you any of their names – Chilton is from Ky. He has been over here 7 mos. He is really the best old boy in the squad. He has carried an AR for the last five mos & it has really whipped him. He weighed about 200 when he came over & it will hustle him to weigh as much as me now. Williamson is from Ky too. Hes just a little guy. He came over about the same time as me. Dolan is from Texas I think. He's been over here about 3 weeks longer than me. Allan is a Nigger from Georgia. He came over may 1<sup>st</sup>. You never seen a blacker one, or lazier. Him & Dolan are both enlisted Reserves. The rest of us are draftees. Hall is form Illinois, King is from Maine, Lybarger is a farmer from Nebraska & then we got in a new man by the name of Acanfora. He told me where he was from but I've forgot. These last four haven't been here long. Since that last push, about June 20 is when they joined to Co.

**Well that's about all I can think of but I had to fill up this letter with something. Love Clate – PS Did Dale W ever get his tonsils out & how did he get along.**

**No date no envelope, but would likely go about here – Hello Deanie, I'll try to write you a few lines before it gets dark. I'm setting here on the side of this mt. where if I slipped, I would go scootin on my hind end for about 200' right straight down. These mts. are really buggers. There is one across the river down below that goes right straight up for about 1000 ft. That don't seem so high but when I was on that 700 footer it was pretty hard to tell a jeep from a truck. All of these mts are covered with scrub pine from the size of your finger on up to about 4". About all of the mts. Have burned off & it has killed a lot of them. There are foxholes on top of every mt. I've been on but when we move in on one they never seem to be in the right place. I'm glad you got you a watch. Be sure & take good care of it. Your grades were pretty good this time. I knew you could do better if you wanted to. You won't get any milk check if you have many more kittens. It'll take all the cows give to feed them. This river down below us here is about the size of Sugar Creek. It's the Naktonguyany River or something like that. Ain't that a name. Refugees have been coming down it all day today. They're running from the Chinks. It's always a bad sign when you see them because you know the Gooks aren't far behind. Well it's a quarter to nine but it isn't quite dark yet. What time does it get dark there. I think we're on daylight saving time. That's so us GIs have time to work in our garden's after work. That's all for now, Love Clate. Write me soon.**

**July 9 -- 8:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, Just a few lines before it gets dark. It started raining just after we came down off the hill, not hard but it's probably a 24 hr one. It's been trying to rain for the last two days. We moved the day I said we would; it rained like hell while we were moving but after we got soaked it quit. We moved about 5 mile back & we're working on reserve positions. It's sure a hell of a climb it takes us exactly an hr to climb it. I've built so many log bunkers lately I think I'll start building log cabins for a living. I had sixteen laborers today besides the rest of the squad. We really build some honeys. They give us all the sand bags we want to use so we can practically make them like log cabins. These laborers are just civilian men the army uses for such purposes. Theyre from 16 to 60 but a lot of them will really work. They seldom have any chow to eat at noon & if they do its just a ball of rice. We give them our corn beef has & noodles out of our C-rations & always take a lot of cigarettes with us. I found out it pays cause you can get twice the work out of them. I suppose you knew Jack Benny was over here in Korea. We got to go to his show yesterday eve. It sure was good. They kept everybody laughing for 2 solid hrs. Besides him there was Ero Flynn, Marjorie Reynolds, Frankie the guitar player on Phil Harris' program and 3 others. I got a letter from Bob B & BF about 2 or 3 days ago. I wrote Bob yesterday & I got your letter nite before last. I don't know why you haven't heard form me very often I've wrote at least one letter a week & sometimes 2 or 3 except those 2 or 3 weeks. Well it's getting pretty dark so I ftlinehad better sign off. By the way I see on the bulletin board I made Cpl, so I'll get around \$130 now when & if they pay me again. I think I told you they skipped me last mo. Well I'll write again in a day or 2. Tell Pudge I'll try to get her a letter wrote too. Love Clate P.S. Tell Deanie he's slackin up on writing.**

**July 12 – 8:00 – Dear Folks, I just got your letter wrote July 4<sup>th</sup>. It was sure a blow about Bob Stele. I got a letter from Jr. Surface today saying his folks hadn't hear from him in 7 weeks, so I knew right then that he had been h it or something. I wrote him about a month or more ago & I never heard from him. I had been wondering why but never thought about him getting it. He might be a prisoner by them stating him missing in action & if they don't get a notice soon that he is actually dead he has got a good chance of being prisoner. Sometimes they treat a POW pretty good, so as long as he is listed as missing in action, there is a good chance he is alive. They**



will know within a month if he is dead or not. This damned war never don't look too good to me. The latest I heard it sounded like the UN just the same as asking for an unconditional surrender, so tell everybody not to get too worried & go ahead & pray for the damn war to go on so they can make their killing. Well we're still here the same place building bunkers. That mt gets a little higher each morning but it's still better than the front lines. Well I haven't much else to write about. I had intended writing Max tonite but I guess I'll try tomorrow nite, since I got your letter. The evenings don't last long when you eat at six & then have to shave everyday; ain't that hell. It's bad as basic training over here when you're not on line. That's all I can think of for now. Love Clate. PS Write soon & let me know anything you know on Bob Steele.

July 20 -- noon -- Dear Folks, I got your letter yesterday eve. It was only six days coming. That's the quickest I ever got one you talk about rain. It started raining yesterday about noon, it drizzles on us all afternoon at that inspection & by 4 o'clock it was a regular down pour. It rained all night & this morning. It has stopped for a little while now, but it looks like it will cut loose any minute. It just comes right straight down & it has just about washed us away. It's a funny thing all the time I have been over here I haven't seen a bit of lightning or heard any thunder. It kind of looks like we're in for that rainy season. By the way we're still here in the same place. We may stay here awhile longer because I understand we have to string barbed wire in front of those positions. That is going to be a hell of a job on this mountain side & worse if it rains every day. I got a letter from Don Ewbank yesterday too. He's in London seems to have a good deal there. I still can't quite understand Bob Steel. If they know he's dead I believe his folks would have heard by now. I don't see how he could have been captured either hardly unless his whole platoon was on a patrol or something, but he may be a POW yet. Well I haven't heard any more on the war the last few days. That's the main talk around here. There will sure be a bunch of happy guys if it does end, but they'll be a sorry bunch if it don't because the shit will really hit the fan then. Well I can't think of much else to write about. I think I asked some of you how Dale W came out with his tonsils & how is Toady. I can't think of anything I really need over here unless it would be a pocket knife. Got a big heavy one with screw drivers & punches etc on it. Also a chain of some kind to tie onto my belt so I won't lose it. There just isn't much a guy needs over here. I've spent exactly \$3.50 since I've been over here & that was for beer so you see if a man spent his life over here he could be a rich man when he died, but I think I just as soon die poor. By the way I don't need any razor blades right now. I've been getting some Gillette blades in the PX rations. If I see I'm going to run out I'll let you know & you can put some in your letters. That is a pretty good way to send them. Well that's all I can think of now. Love, Clate PS If it keeps up raining my mail may slack up some but I'll write as often as I can.

July 30 -- 7 p.m. -- Dear Folks -- Well, I think I owe about everybody a letter now. I got 4 letters the other night at once. One was from B. Buser. The other 3 were from you, Bet & Max. I had got one from Pudge a day or two before. I got a birthday card from Bet yesterday. We have moved 3 times since I wrote last. We were upon a mountain about 3 days & nites & then we came back down & are setting by the river about 10 mile north Chunchon. We got 45 cans of beer apiece the day before we moved down off the mt. They give us 5 cans per day. It cost us \$5.25 a piece. Nobody had any money in our platoon so our platoon lead (Lt. McCary) paid for it. It cost him \$215 for one platoon. We pay him back pay day. That's tomorrow. I hope I get paid. I can't figure out just what is going on. Everybody thought we were going back up on line but we're just going along like we were. There is a rumor that the Chinese Nat. have invaded China from Formosa. I don't know for sure yet though. You can hear anything. If it is so it sure is going to change the complexion of things. Just how I wouldn't know though. It could

be good or bad. Well it's coming one lull of a storm so I had better sign off. I'll try to write again soon. Love, Clate

Aug 6 – 8:30 – Dear Folks, Its about dark so this will have to be a short letter. I just wanted you to know I got your box ok. It was sure good. I also got Maxs cake on my birthday. That was the best cake I ever ate in my life. I have been getting several birthday cards along too. Johnnie & Nina Jean & Bill & June sent one & this eve I got one from Fay. She had a letter in with it. She said she had written me once back in May but I don't remember it now. I probably got it though. Well we go back up on line for sure the 8<sup>th</sup>. We relieve the 5<sup>th</sup> Reg of the 24<sup>th</sup> Div. Col. McCaffrey gave us a big speech this morning. He said we are just to set there & hold that ground. We'll be on Hill 1064 (That 1064 stands for meters. I always though t it was ft but its not. I think a meter is 39"). I think I have got a letter from about everybody so I've got a lot of writing to do. You had better tell everybody who writes me to put in an envelope & some paper because it seems like they just never cn get hold of any for us. Then to they'll stick together in a few days if you don't use them. It sure has been hot here for last few days. It also rains about every nite. The insects nearly eat a guy up too. If you have anything sweet on your tray the bees nearly eat it up before you can. That's all for now. PS Tell Deanie I'll try to write him in a few days. Love, Clate

August 14 1951 – this one is VERY faded, most of the rest are very easily read – Cpl. Charles C. Morgan Co A 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt aPO c/o – San Francisco, Calif – to John w. Morgan, RR 3 Crawfordsville, Indiana – (hand dated Aug 9, 8:30 p.m.) – Dear Folks, Well here I am setting on top of a mt. again. We cam up yesterday morning. We got up at 3 o'clock, it was pouring down rain then & it didn't stop till about noon after we got up here. It rained off & on all afternoon & last night it really poured. It cam thru our tent & we had to set up the rest of the night while we weren't on guard. It has been cloudy all day but hasn't rained anymore. The 5<sup>th</sup> Reg had set up here for 47 days & they had built bunkers & strung barbed wire all around. This hill is 900 & some so I feel pretty safe up here. I got your box tonite with the knife. That is just exactly what I wanted. The candy was all melted together but none of it went to waste. We get two hot meals a day up here so I guess we wont starve. I hope we set up here as long as the 5<sup>th</sup> did, but if this peace treaty has broke down completely like it looks like it has I expect something will happen right soon. Aug 10 – 2 o'clock –It got to dark last night so I thought I would finish this letter in the morning but it rained all morning so I am just now starting on it again. If I hadn't got these envelopes I would have had to waited until I got a letter with one in it before I could write. So don't forget to tell everyone who writes to put an envelope & paper in the letter. You or somebody asked me if the boys get many boxes. Somebody in the platoon gets one about everyday. Well it wont be long until Deanie starts back to school. I suppose he's dreading it already. Going to school sure is a rough life aint it Deanie. You should be over here in Korea where there are no schools but of course there isn't any candy or picture shows & you eat riceballs (3 meals a day but maybe that is better than going to school). I have to study all day. What do you think? Write me soon & let me know how everything is going. Well that's all I can think of right now so I had better sign off & try to write Max. Love, Clayt

Aug 14 – 7:00 p.m. – Dear Bet & Larry, I got your letter mailed Aug 2, but didn't get it until the 12<sup>th</sup>. So you are probably looking for an answer a lot sooner than you will get it. Yours was the first letter I got for several days. I think all the roads are washed out so it just isn't getting up here to us. It has rained cats & Dogs every day we have been up here. Last night just as they got chow up here it cut loose & simply poured. Believe me you had to eat like hell to keep your tray from running over. It wasn't an hour later though the sun came out and hasn't rained anymore & today has been pretty nice. I hope this damned rain will stop pretty soon. These

pictures are a couple I managed to get off one of the guys. The guy that went on R&R was supposed to get several sets made but he said that's all they could make. I think he just ran out of money. Me & Chilton bought a camera & we sent by another guy to get some film so I may send some pictures home yet if we set here on this hill long enough. You can give these to the folks as I thought as I thought that I had better get them sent before the rain ruins them. Well it looks like the peace talks have about blowed up. Everybody should be happy again now that prices will stay up for awhile. Bob Buser writes me & tells me about the draft dodgers around New Market. I've got two letters from him in 1 ½ mo. Or so. He has even invited me to his house for a big party when I get back. I took him up but it may be a long time yet if they don't get this rotation going better than it has been. There are still about 16 of the Indian ? Indiana? Different word? Guys in the CO. yet. Them guys are about ready to blow their top. That's about all I've got for now, have been back on the next mountain digging more holes today. That's so if the Gook's knock us off this one we'll have some place to go. Well, let me know anything you hear on Bob Steele. PS I'll put your letter back in to stiffen this letter & maybe the pictures wont get bent so bad. Love, Clate

Aug 19 – 3 p.m. – Dear Folks, Just got a letter from you & one from Max with some pictures of the house & barn. They sure were good. The old place must really shine now. She also sent a picture of Russ' midget. I got your letter wrote the 6<sup>th</sup> to a couple days ago a funny thing I had got a letter several days back from the Surface boy & I was looking at it again a couple of days ago. He was back in reserve. He said eh had been on Hill 1073. Well it so happens that's where we are now. This morning when we got our mail Lt. McCary our platoon leader said he may be going home on an emergency furlough soon as his father was expected to die at any time. Well it wasn't five minutes later until they called up Hewitt (He used to be with me in the 4<sup>th</sup> squad & is platoon Sgt. Now) & said that his father was about to die. So we may be without a platoon leader sgt. & everything here in a few days & yes, look at my return address I'm a Sgt now. J will probably shit when he hears that. He always said you had to kiss everybodys ass to get your stripes. Well they can't give you much shit over here as all the old men are going home on rotation & there just isn't anyone to take their place, anyhow they can have mine anytime they want them. They don't worry me a damn bit. It's still raining off & on but its been pretty nice today. It's awfully foggy here too. I think my pants are getting a little slack up here, too. They bring up breakfast but it isn't much & I can't hardly eat these darn c-rations anymore. So I have to live on supper now, but they do have pretty good chow then. We get PX rations up here too. That's a little candy & cigarettes. I've eat so many life savers since I've been over here I nearly choke on them, but you'll eat about anything. Well that's all I got room for this time. Love, Clate

Aug 22 – 2 p.m. – on American Red Cross paper – Dear Folks, I haven't heard form anybody for quite awhile but I've got a little time so will write anyway. I don't know whats the matter but it seems like the mail isn't coming through worth a damn. The last letter I got was wrote the 10<sup>th</sup>. Got a letter from Max with some pictures of the house & barn, said her & Buck was coming down to the Barker Reunion with Russ & Mid. I can't remember for sure but wasn't it supposed to be held at Nick's this year or am I wrong? How is Nick & how is his house coming along? If his got any ways near done I would like to have a picture of it. Speaking of Pictures, this one is of me but you can't tell it. I just happened to pick it up & thought I'd send it to you anyhow, it was taken right after that big inspection we had. We've been going back a little ways every day & digging more holes but got done yesterday & I have just been sitting around. They've got a Good barber up here today cutting everybodys hair. He don't do bad either. Well it looks like I'm going to spend the biggest part of the winter over here. They've got a new rotation deal no waltogether?. You get 4 points per mo. For every month you're on the front

lines. That's called Class A time. You have to have 36 points to be eligible. So that means 9 months instead of 6. They gave everybody a paper with his points & approximate time he would leave. I've got 19 points & leave in January, so it looks like I might get a little chilly before I get out of here if this damn thing don't end. But don't worry about me, I guess I can take it if the other guys can. There are guys starting their 13 mo over here so I've got a long time to go before I get that bad off. Well that's about all I've got for right now so I'll write later when I've got more news. Love, Clate

Aug 28, 7:30 p.m. Dear Folks, It has been raining for the last 36 hrs & it is getting dark fast so this will have to be a short letter I got a letter from Bet & Bob Buser night before last & 1 from you last night. I also got the letter back I had wrote to Bob Steele (*note: Bob Steele was KIA in Korea on 19 May 1951*) June 17. Hadn't heard from anybody for about a week before I got Bet's letter. I did get a July 3- Quick. Havn't got much news besides the weather & that's always the same; rain. It clears up a little for a day or two & then it rains for day or two. It sure makes things miserable. It looks like the war is going to be a fight to the finish. I don't think the gooks wanted peace from the start. It sure was a frame up over these bombings. Well how did the reunion turn out. I had chicken the same day too so tell J I might have been eating a drumstick the same time he was. Did Chick ever get started. Tell him when he gets there to write me & I'll try to dorp him a few lines now & then. He'll probably be about as miserable as I am over here "HA" I went down the mt. & got clean clothes a hot shower, a few days ago. It sure felt good. A guy feels pretty crummy after he sweats for about 2 wks in the same clothes. Well it's getting pretty dark so I had better sign off. Tell Bet I'll try to write her in a few days but it seems like I always get a letter from you & her the same day. Love Clate

Sept 5 – Dear Folks, I got my box & letter from you yesterday. Boy was I glad to see that box. We had been eating cold C-rations for 5 days straight. We made a little push but have held up again. Don't know how long well be here. There weren't but one or two guys around when I got my box & I really waded into it. I think I enjoyed that box more than any other I ever got. I guess it was because I hadn't had anything decent to eat for so long. Well it looks like the rainy season is about over. It hasn't rained now for four days. We didn't have our sleeping bags or anything until last night & we nearly froze our asses off. Its awfully foggy of mornings here & don't clear off until about 10 o'clock. Now can stay pretty comfortable though during the day. Believe me fall is really in the air already. Well you asked me about the new rotation deal. I have already sent it to you or Bet one, I forget. But they have changed it so many times I don't think you can go by it for they'll probably have it changed again by the time you get this letter. I don't think I'll get out of here much before January though. Maybe the winter won't be quite as bad as last anyhow. Hell you get pretty well used to living like a rat anyhow. Ask J if you don't. Stay on a hill 2o r 3 days & it begins to feel like home & you hate to leave there. Everyday you fix things ... (need to find rest of this letter)

?? on this date and first of letter is gone – do not think it goes with one above as it is on different paper. How is Pete doing on those hunts. That is one thing I've never been over here, is a coon track. I've seen a fox or two, one rabbit & one deer. They say there are a lot of deer & even a few bears up north father so I may see some of them before this damn war ends. It don't look like they are going to get anything done. I got payed \$130 this month. I still think they have short changed me. I figured it out the other day it figures \$152 but I got some partial pays on the way over here but I know damn well I never got that much. I'll find out about it when I get off of R&R. Love Clate PS Ask Deanie when he is going to drop me a line or two, I havn't heard from him in ages. I've got to write Max yet so had better sign off. I almost forgot tho. I could have gone to Japan to the 34<sup>th</sup> Regt. They were in the 24<sup>th</sup> Div last year & Got wiped out.

They are reorganizing in Japan now. They need NCO's to train them. I thought on it a long time before I turned it down. They wouldn't tell you how soon you'd be coming back over here. In Japan you only get 1point per month also I figured if these peace talks work out they'll know within a mo, that might let me out of here but if they don't settle things the 34<sup>th</sup> will probably be coming over here in the dead of winter & I'll have lost all these extra points in Japan so I just as well stay here & sweat my time out.

?? on date –no real clue to when he'd have written it – starts on p3 –up a little more comfortable anyhow I've got plenty of company. Well it looks like everybody is on the draft dodgers asses back there, Bob Buser writes & tells me all about them. I get a big kick out of them. I hope the army gets them all before they can get into the Air Force. That's what I would have liked happen to Marvin Burkett. I guess he is just about to die in all that filth down there in Texas. I think he even has to sleep in tents too - HA -- p 4 – This letter was the first you had mentioned about having trouble with your side. I hope it gets OK. Don't be bullheaded & not go to a doctor when you feel tough. That's why so many people are in bad shape they just tough it out instead of doing something about it. Well I guess Chick is just about as bad off as he ever will be. He'll be so homesick he probably will be sicker than ever, so write him as often as you can even if he don't write to often & I'll try to get one to him now & then. Well that's about all I can think of now. Love Clate – thanks again for that box – everything was in good shape.

Sept 9, 12 o'clock – Dear Folks, Haven't got much to do right now so I'll try to write a letter or two. We got a bunch of PX rations in last night & it had a lot of stationery in it so I won't have to worry for a few days about paper & stationery. It was some extra stuff besides the usual candy & cigarets. There were four watches & I got one of those. We drew numbers out of the hat to see who got them & I was the first one. It's the same type as my old one. It cost \$11.50 a 17-jewel I think I told you I sold my old one for twenty dollars. I kind of hated to get rid of it but I figured it was about time for it to go on the bum again & I wouldn't have any way to send it home. I think I have wrote you & Bet since I heard from you so there isn't much news. It rained a little last night but it is pretty nice today. I believe the rainy season is about over because it had been cloudy as hell for the last two or 3 days & when it's that way it generally pours for a couple days, but this time it just sprinkled this time. I got two Quick magazines today. One Aug 8 & 13<sup>th</sup>. That makes 4 altogether I've got. It looks like they are going to come through really regular now. I heard from Harold M. & he's cooking now in a rest camp there in Hawaii. We are getting two hot meals a day up here now. After eating C-rations cold for 5 or 6 days everything tasted like a reunion dinner. Well it looks like I'll be going on R&R around the 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope so anyhow. I think I told you me & this boy Patterson were going together but he got hurt 3 or 4 days ago. He was taking up some booby traps down in front of our positions & he stepped right on top of a trip flare. They think it broke a lot of bones in his foot. It knocked him about 10' down the hill. He's probably on his way to the states by now. I sure hated to see him go. I've inquired around & some of the boys said they called home from Japan. Don't look to strong but I am going to try it. I'll just have to wait until I get there. Well that's about all I can think of for now. Hope you're feeling better. Love, Clate

Sept 15 – 9 a.m. – Dear Folks, Guess what I'm doing now. I'm back here at the 31<sup>st</sup> rest camp training replacements. You remember when I first go here. I took a five day training before I went to my Co. Well that's the same thing now. I've been here 3 days & I've got about 4 more. The Co. Exec asked me if I wanted to come back here for about a week to help train some replacements. I first told him I didn't want to but my Pl. Ldr said he thought we were going to have a patrol the next day so I changed my mind. At least I'm going to eat good while I'm back here. We've got 117 all together now. I haven't seen anybody I know yet but I've seen a few guys

from Breckinridge. I'm even sleeping on an army cot. The 1<sup>st</sup> time since I've been over here. I told you in the last letter I thought I was going on R&R about the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. I don't know if this will change it or not. I don't care if I don't go this time. Just as long as I can stay back here the better. It makes the time pass a lot faster. It will be the 1<sup>st</sup> part of Oct then before I go on R&R, but that will make Oct that much shorter. This month sure has gone fast. I don't know whether they'll send my mail back here or not. I doubt it if I only stay here a wk. That's about all the news I've got right now. I wanted to tell you mainly that I might not be going on R&R this time. It sure has been cool the last few nights. Love Clate

Sept 18 – 7 p.m. Dear Folks, Just got a letter from you & one from Bet too. They are sending my mail on back here now, had got one from Patterson & a Quick mag. He's in the hospital at Osaka. I guess his foot is pretty well mashed up. He said the doctors said he had a good chance of going to the states. Guess what – we got two big oil stoves for our tent here this evening. We just now got them up. I can just see these sons a bitches back here this winter burning about 50 gal of gas per day keeping these tents warm. They claim gas only costs 90 c per gal by the time they get it over here. I don't know how much longer I'll be back here. The 31<sup>st</sup> is being relieved by the 323<sup>rd</sup> now so as long as the 31<sup>st</sup> is in reserve I may stay here for awhile. You don't know from one day to the next though. I have about 4 or 5 hrs a day classes & I'm off the rest of the time. I've been going to a show ever night too. We shipped 117 replacements out in the last couple days & we got in 32 last night. I havn't seen a soul I knew yet but I've talked to a few guys that had trained at Breckinridge. One had been in Co. C 502<sup>nd</sup>. There is one guy here with me that was with me at Breckinridge. I've seen two others too. One came thru going on R&R & the other was going back to his Co. He had been in the hospital. They let another guy go on R&R in my place so I'll probably go whenever I go back to the Co. Things were a little rough for a few days around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, but it's cooled down a little & now that I'm back here I don't even think about war and I'm not going to as long as I'm back here. I sure am eating back here. They never know exactly how many they're going to feed & they generally always have 2nds. I thought the pictures were good. I figured Nick would put the same garage roof on. Well that's all I got for now. Don't worry about me I'm getting along fine. Love, Clate.

Sept 23, 9 a.m. – Dear Folks, I wrote Bet that I was going back to the co. yesterday. I got back up here yesterday eve. I got a letter from Bob B. yesterday & the box & a letter from you this morn. I still can't quite figure it out – you sounded like in the letter that the watch was supposed to be in the box. I'd read the letter then search the box again but still no watch, so now I've about decided that you sent it in a box by itself. I really could have got along without it now that I got a watch in the PX rations but there are already a 1/2 dozen guys wanting my old one. I could probably make 10 or \$15 off of it but I'll sell it for about \$15 as I only got \$8.50 invested because I sold my old one for \$20. Everything in the box was in good shape. The crackers were crumbled up but I can always eat the peanut butter with a spoon & add the cracker crumbs. Those cookies & Candy sure are good. I just had breakfast & havnt ate all of them yet. Now for a little other news about that clipping. When I first came in the outfit I filled out a paper with name, address etc & also my hometown newspaper. I guess they sent that stuff to the paper form the Co here. I've seen other boys get clippings from home about promotions transfers etc. It was sure fouled up. I havn't been on a bazooka for almost 4 months. They surely looked in my records & that's what I was put down as when I first came over here. I think it was about June 1<sup>st</sup> when I went to a rifle squad. I was a squad leader til the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept & then I was ass pl sgt until I went back to train those replacements. I guess I'll be pl. Sgt in a few days as he is going home on rotation. We're sure getting in a gob of replacements.

Sept 24, 1 p.m – Dear Folks, This will be a might short letter, but I said I'd write as quick as I got my watch. I sure thought it was nice. I hope it didn't cost you to much. One guy thought it would cost at least \$35. It's a lot nicer than my old one but I still hated for you to spend the money for it. I just got through eating dinner. That peanut butte r& cheese was really the berries. I see in the paper that they are about to start the peace talks again. Maybe they'll get something done this time if they do. I don't know how much longer we're going to set here. Baker Co is moving back out tomorrow & Able Co except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is moving back to Baker Co's positions. The guys are just now leaving on rotation so I guess I'm platoon Sgt now. Lt. McCary is going on RR the 27<sup>th</sup> so it looks like I'll be the "wheel" around here for a few days. Well that's about all the news for now. I wrote you & Chick yesterday so you may get this letter the same day. Thanks for the watch. I got \$15 for my other one. I could of got more but money isn't everything over here. Love, Clate – PS I'll keep you informed when I got on R&R. If they leave the 27<sup>th</sup> they should be back about the 6<sup>th</sup> of Oct. Then I'll leave the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sept 28 3 p.m – Dear Folks, It's been a few days since I've wrote anybody so I'd better get busy or you'll probably think something has happened I have wrote so often lately, I've just been setting around in the sun all day today & I just got back from getting a spoonful of ice cream. Just enough to drive a guy crazy. They shouldn't give a man any if that's all that they can give you. We get 6 cans of beer yesterday & a few odds & ends cookies & a few peanuts. It has been nice her everyday since I got back to the Co. It clouds up along towards evening but it hasn't rained so far. I guess it will wait until we move again & then rain. It rarely fails that way. There are rumors we are going in reserve before long but I'd hate to bet on it. The C.O. was up in a plane yesterday so it looks like we will be going the other way if anything. We're beginning to get in winter equipment now. We got our mountain type "fart sacks" yesterday. You can ask about anybody & they'll tell you that those "fart sacks" are the heart of the army in cold weather. They're about 2 times as warm as a wool type & it takes a lot of water to soak thru. I haven't drawn any of my other winter equipment yet. I think I'll wait til I see what we do. I don't want to carry anything any longer than necessary. By the way take a look at my address this time. I got the order on SFC. Yesterday. There were several guys got promoted this time. Well I haven't got much other news. The peace talks are on & off again so you can't tell just what they are going to do. Love, Clate. PS My watch is running just fine. Kind of glad you sent it now. The bunch left yesterday on R&R so I'll be leaving around the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> if nothing else happens.

October 9 – 3:30 p.m. – (on fancy Japanesy paper) – I've been trying to write ever since I got here but just couldn't find time for some reason or other. We got here on the 6<sup>th</sup> & have to be back at Camp Drake at 12 midnight the 11<sup>th</sup>. We are staying at Yokohoma they sent us to Tokyo but we couldn't find any place to stay so we came on over to Yoko. Its only about ½ hr ride in a taxi. Just been seeing the town & eating mostly. Have been eating two steak dinners twice a day. I should get filled up before I go back. I have bought a few things for Deanie & the kids. I'll send it from the PX. I don't know how long it takes. I think I'll send it parcel post. You probably will have got the card by now when you read this. About calling home it takes from 12 to 36 hrs for a call to go thru. I decided not to try because we're out running around all day & to stay around a phone that long would take up to much time! It would be my luck for it to take 36 hrs too. Well had better sign off for now. I'll write when I get back to Korea & tell all the details. Love, Clate

Oct 15 – Noon – Dear Folks, Well I've finally got back to the Co. & am beginning to get settled down again. The Co was moving back up the day we got back & it was a couple days until we got back up here. We're sitting right on the Hwashon Reservoir. The POC? Were here & they

pushed on across & all we're doing is sitting here. They took the ridge on the other side so we may go back again in a few days. You never can tell though anything can happen. I suppose you have got several pictures by now. I just had to send them mon the move & didn't right much if anything in some of those letters. Those big pictures are of a hill we were on back there the first part of Sept. The Co com took the pictures & he had me get them developed for him so I had a set made for myself. I'm not in any of those pictures for they were taken after we left the hill. We caught a lot of hell for 3 days that we were there. I'll tell the whole story when I get back. There's quite a story on that whole hill. The first time I was on it all the trees & grass were still there. The pictures of the tanks are just down at the bottom of the hill. They got knocked out & they drug them back to our lines. I don't know whether I told you or not but we have a new Co. Com. His picture is in the bunch. He's the little short haired Capt. Standing with another Capt. in one of those pictures. He's a hell of a nice Joe. I've also got a new Pl. Ldr. I don't know how he's going to be yet. He expects you to wait on him hand & foot but maybe (rest is not here)

No date on this one – just a quick hand-written note but since Lorene Morgan's birthday was Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, it must have been about this time – I made out a money order this morning but I may not get it back before I go on R&R so I'll send it right after I get back. You should get it in time for your birthday. Spend it for anything you want. NO matter what it is. Well I had better sign off as I want to get Max wrote yet.

30 Oct 10:30 – Dear folks, (a few days before he was killed) – It has been a good while since I have had a chance to write so I had better get a few lines wrote at least. We've sure been busy since we have moved. We had to build new positions & lay barbed wire. It was sure a long miserable ride. We were on the truck about 14 hrs all together. The damn thing broke down and it would only go in one gear. After we got here we had to walk 2 miles up here. It sure has been cold since we got here. It has froze ice about every night and there has been a big frost every nite. We're getting more winter clothing right away. I think some today. I haven't got but 2 letters since I've been up here. I imagine it will start coming thru in a day or two. Well that's all I've got time to write for now but maybe I'll have a chance in another day or two. Love, Clate

suited to do. Now say that I did make a high score on my mech test along with my past occupation I might be put in some mech work). Now this is just something to think about and it's more than likely wrong. I'll probably know in a day or 2. These other guys are supposed to ship out to some other place here in camp for BT the first of the week. So us 3 guys may get left behind. They could have got our papers fouled up, but I don't think so, one of these other guys (1 of us 3) asked a guy in another roster about it and he said they told him that he was to be shipped out and put in the A Force. Now this came through 2 guys so I couldn't tell whether that was the truth or now. Now that's all I can tell you about that. M. Servies qualified for OTS and he also passed his test. He didn't say what he had decided to do. He is in the next barracks, also one of the Redman boys (Henry about the same age as me) is over there too. That struck me kind of funny as you remember J. went in with his brother. Henry said that his brother was in the F.A. and that he was also assigned to a F.A. Bat. So Maybe I'll step into my brothers shoes -- HA! There are a lot of damn niggers in this camp. We have one upstairs here. He's a pretty good egg but the rest make me sick. The way the "sons-a-bitches" eat. Some of them stick a piece of bread in their mouths, then chuff it on in with their fingers. They sure



stick together. I guess over at Fort Knox it's lousey with them. I don't know what I'll do tomorrow yet. The Cpl drew names out of the hat for KP duty and I was lucky enough not to get drawn. Well I think I'll quit here and take a shower. I'd better tell you again not to write me yet. It may be another week or longer before you can. I'm getting along just fine. I didn't know one direction from another until today when the sun came out. Its been colder but the wind didn't blow like it did all week. I sure is damp when the sun isn't out. I've been having sinus trouble the last 3 days and I caught a cold the first day I was here. That sure makes a guy miserable, but outside of that I feel fine. By the way, the guy who went AWOL is back. I guess he came back on his own. I don't know what they are going to do wit him. I've seen him down at the Orderly Room 2 times. Another thing I forgot to tell you. They gave us a free haircut the 1<sup>st</sup> day we were here (45 secs flat). We also got our "flying 10" - \$10-\$.50 for that haircut). Well I'm going to quit for good here. I'll let you know when you can write me. Love Clate

Tuesday, Nov 14, 1950 – another post card, typed except some things filled out and hand written

My processing is finished now and I have been assigned to a unit. My mailing address is: Co. B 502<sup>nd</sup> Abn, Inf. Reg'T., 101<sup>st</sup> Abn, Div, Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. The last thing in processing was a photograph in my new uniform at the post studio. This was done free of charge and will be sent to you as soon as it is developed and printed. I just found that the Camp has hobby shops and that entertainments of various kinds are held every week at the service club. There are post exchanges where I can buy everything I may need. (Hand written) – This 101<sup>st</sup> ANB Div is just a name of the outfit in the last was. We're strictly on the ground. So don't worry about the name. P.S. No Photo yet – getting along fine, write son, Love Clate.

No date – Wed nite 1:45 a.m. rather Thurs morn – should go about in this time frame – Dear Max & Buck, Maybe you wonder why I'm writing at this time of nite. It looks like I might be getting in off of a big drunk. Well its not that. I'm firing furnaces tonite. They take a man out of each platoon & they make 3 shifts each nite, 6:30 to 10:30; 10:30 to 2:30; 2:30 to 6:30 in the morn. A platoon is about 64 men and each platoon as a barracks. Well each barracks has a furnace & also a coal water heater. I fire 3 furnaces, 3 water heaters & a stove at the orderly room. Only tonite it looks like I fire all nite by myself. Our Sgt forgot to send a man from his platoon & I don't know what happened to the other one anyhow I'm hellish sleepy, but I have to stay awake so I'm sitting here writing letters. I just got thru writing one home. I don't know if Mom sent you the letters I wrote home or not, I told her to. If she hasn't I will tell her again so I wont have to go into all the details again. If there is anything you want to know ask them & I can tell you then. We started our basic training this week. The other two weeks didn't count. I'm in the Inf. For good it looks like or at least for 14 wks. Max Servies is still with me, he bunks a couple of bunks away. It kind of helps to have someone around that you know real well, he's even in the same squad I am. (a platoon is split up into 4 squads). Each man has a certain place in his squad; then when you fall out you go right to that place. Before I forget it this 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Div isn't really an abn outfit. It was during the last war & they just never changed the name. We wear a "screaming eagle" patch. It's the head of an eagle (white head, yellow bill against a black background). I have some stationary up in my foot locker with the insignia on it but I couldn't get to it without wakening everybody. Well Max I hope this letter will do for right now for I'll have to make my rounds. I may get a 5 day furlough Christ or NY don't bank on it though. You never know the Army. PS I'm getting along ok. Write whenever you can. Love Clate. Tell Russtall (?) hello.

No date, but probably in here somewhere – Wed nite, 9:45 p.m. (this is on Camp B stationary) – Dear Folks, I'll write just a few lines while I have time. I'm firing the furnaces tonight until

about 10<sup>30</sup>. There are 3 barracks & the orderly room that has to be kept going. It's pretty warm down here tonite & it isn't taking much fire. Then too they're burning crates & trash out of the supply room so I haven't done much yet. There is three shifts each nite. From 6:30 to 10:30; 10:30 to 2:30 & 2:30 to 6:30. They take a man out of each platoon & he is also the barracks orderly for his platoon for the next day. He has to clean up after everybody leaves & just stay around the barracks. So I'm barracks orderly tomorrow; Thanksgiving Day. The only day I get off & I pull a detail like that. It won't be to bad though because I would have to straighten much of anything up with everybody around. I'll mostly just keep the fire going. Last night we got some more clothes. We got our overcoats overshoes 2 pr of field pants a winter cap, suspenders & our bayonets. Tonite right after chow they took us over for another shot. When we came back everybody took his rifle down to some building to clean it. I didn't go because I had to fire the furnaces. We start carrying our M 13 Friday about all we've done this week is attend classes (first aid; hear the chaplain talk; classes on the atomic bomb; gas & all different kinds of warfare. We drill about 1 hr every day). Monday we had a Physical Training class, it had rained all night Sunday nite & then it turned colder than hell. The last hr Monday they had us take off our hats & coats & we stood out in a damned muddy field & listened while they demonstrated what we were going to do. Everybody nearly froze to death. We had it again today but it was pretty warm all day. We run about all the way between classes (double time they call it). Some of the guys fall out on those little stretches. I don't know what they'll do when it really gets tough. I get along ok except my feet. My damn shoes nearly kill me. They cut into my ankles. You ought to hear the cigarette smokers blow. They really "bitch." They say, "What the hell are they trying to do, kill us?" I get kind of winded, but when you see some fat boy running along side of you with his tongue hanging out about a foot you feel like you could run another mile. I see by a clipping Max S got that its pretty cold up there & it has been snowing some to. It has only froze a couple of times since I've been over here & I haven't seen any snow, just rain & more rain. So far it has just rained mostly at night. I got a letter from you & from Bet last Mon. I don't need to tell you they were a welcome sight. You don't have to write much just as long as you write. Just write about anything. It doesn't matter what it is; anything is good news. I'm glad to hear Deanie is helping out like he is. Maybe I can get him something. I don't know what it would be because its hard to find anything in that line at a PX & I can't get out of camp; but I'll see what I can do. Tell him I said for him to try real hard in school, because if he could see what some of these dumb devils pull he would soon see it pays to learn all you can. I see in the paper the war is looking a little better but nobody down here thinks it's ways near over. Our CO told us this evening that everyone will get a 5 day furlough at Christmas or NY's (1/2 & 1/2). But they told us that when we first cam here & then they turned around & said we'd get our 14 wks right straight thru; so don't bank on it. I'd better stop here & get back to work. I'm setting on a stool righting this. The first good shit I've got since I've been in here. Maybe I can write some more tomorrow. Well I had to stop there. Everybody came blundering in & I had to get out of the way. I played hell getting off at 10:30. Its 12:00 now & nobody showed up yet. I seen Sgt. Pait out front & he said he forgot to get a man out of his platoon so if his man was next I'll pull his shift too. He said he was so busy getting us guys ready for those shots he had forgotten it. Then he took them down for that rifle cleaning detail & Max S said some guy fouled up the sights on his rifle or was monkeying with it or something & Max said Pait got mad & made them all put their back together & brought them back. I guess they had just got them torn apart. This Sgt Pait is our master sgt. He's a real guy. He's been in about 8 yrs. I think & He really knows his stuff. He's a little guy but he's tuff as nails. He's around 40 years old I think. He cusses like hell all the time. You can't imagine how comical he is unless you seen him. Well I had better make my rounds again or my fires will be out. Maybe I can think of something else to write by then. Well that took about 10 minutes so I'll go ahead. Tell Bet she'll have to read these letters for awhile unless I do get

one wrote tonite. I think I told you I got a letter from her too, Mon. Its kind of got to where I've got caught up on all the things that have happened. I have to wait for something else to come along before I can find anything to write about. It's going to get to where I'll be doing this same things everyday. The chow is really good. I've served on the chow line twice today & they really give you all you can eat. Then the last day or so I've got to go back for 2nds. I'll get fat as a hog if I keep eating the way I have been. There is no comparison between these meals & the ones we got when we first came in. There is one cook in the kitchen that will really chew a guy's ass out if he leaves anything. He sure never says anything to me. The only thing I haven't liked so far is greens & sweet potatoes with dried apples or something. I couldn't hardly get them down. You think I'm finiky, you should see some of these guys. They leave half their stuff. They told us if we towed the line this week they'd lift the restrictions this wkend, so maybe I'll at least get to go to the PX. Larry & J were always talking about going to a show every night. In the 1<sup>st</sup> place I wouldn't go if they would let us, a fellow is so damn tired & it's always later before you ever get to even sit down. Like those rifles, all that is on your time. You send out your laundry change bedding or if nothing else Waterbury has a speech to make. How is Ray & J getting along on the forty? Is the Cat giving them anymore trouble? How does he like the new tires. Who have they get doing the cutting. How are the Winiger's. Tell them I aid hello. Well I had better cut this off & write somebody else. You didn't say whether you sent those other letters on to Max or not. If you havn't send them because I won't have to write all that in her letter. The next time you write don't get in such a damned hurry. You surly was going to town because you didn't tell me half the things I wanted to know. How is Nig & all the folks up there. Tell them I'll write them when I can catch a little extra time. Well it's 1 o'clock so it looks like I'm up for the night. I'm almost over my cold & I feel a lot better. I'm getting along fine. The only part I hate is that 1<sup>st</sup> hr of a morning. They get you up early then you have to make your bunch sweet & mop & get the hell out. We've got a system where the platoon that has the cleanest barracks gets to eat first the next day & they don't have to fall out for police call. We were first the 1<sup>st</sup> day & we're 2<sup>nd</sup> tomorrow. Id' imagine Waterbury will comb our ass if we're not first ths next time. Well I'm quittin for good. Love, Clate. PS Write some damned letters.

Thursday morn – (no date, no envelope but probably goes about here – Dar Folks, It's 6:30 a.m. & we're all waiting to see if we go out onto the rifle range. They got us up at 4 again this morning & then we have just been sitting here with our clothes on. Just now they came in & told us to undress that if we did go it would be at 7:30 so I've got a little time of the Armie's for once. Yesterday we went out in the rain. It had rained about all night. I think I told you that everything outside of the main camp area is in corn. Well the rifle range is in a corn field to. You can imagine how this Ky. clay is. They band sand for us to lay on but water was standing on top of the sand. Everybody was about soaked. You either layed there or set about one hour. Then you had to coach someone else while he fired. About 9:30 or 10 o'clock the rain started freezing. Some of the riles in the racks filled with ice. The sand clogged a lot of rifles to. You had to keep the trigger hand glove off also that was tuff to. I coached a little kid about 5' tall or less. He nearly froze to death. I held his bare hand in my hands while he wasn't firing or I believe his hand would have froze. The last order they just sent them through everyway. They had a lot of ammo left and they handed out 3 or 4 clips & said fire away. It sounded like machine guns for awhile. Ice cycles were hanging from everybodies helmets & our outer pants were froze stiff. Even though it was that bad the guys wernt bitching as much out there as they do around the barracks. When we came back in at about 1 o'clock we had the afternoon off to clean our rifles. It snowed last night & its very cold here this morn. That's why we're waiting. I hope we go out because at least you'll be dry. A fellow just gave the weather report. He said snow & cold

again today. He said I guess there isn't much we can do about it except stay by the fire. Now we were supposed to be on the rifle range the rest of the week. Sat we fire the carbine. J. do you remember one model of the carbin that fires either semi or full automatic. It fires 750 rounds per min. I think it holds 28 rounds per step. I never heard you mention it. We saw a movie on it. It looked pretty wicked. Did ever tell you we have a Spicer & a Pierce in our Platoon. I don't care much for Spicer but Pierce is a hell of a nice guy. Well its 10 after 1 so I better quit. I got a letter from Pudge last night. I got some other letters from you & Bet sometime. I forget when If I don't get them read when they're handing out the mail I have to just stick them in my pocket. So I may have some letters I've never read yet. "HA". I don't think I told you that I haven't got paid yet. There was about 12 in the company that never. They said we would but they've probably fouled up somewhere. Some of the furloughs were changed. Mine is the same some of the guys from Ohio put up such a howl that they finally gave all of them 10 days. They took 5 days away from a guy from Fort Wayne & that's farther than what some of the guys live in Ohio. He really got a dirty deal. Well I'm going to stop here. I'll write later. Love, Clate PS Did J get all of the tires yet. Has Deanie got his report card again yet. Tell him not to worry you to much about going to the show because I havn't been to one since I've been here. They just come in and said no range today but they'll find something. Bye

Sat nite, 25 Nov 1950 – Dear Bet, I just came back from the PX so I'll write a line or two before I go to bed. We got our restriction lifted today, so we can go anywhere on the post now, providing we toe the mark. I just went up to the PX but it was so cold I drank 2 beers & came back. I got your letter this evening, was glad to get it, I got a letter form Mom & Max yesterday. It sure has been cold down here. It was 1 below this morning. Everything is a glare of ice. They expect you to march on this stuff. Yesterday we went over about a mile to the gas chamber. We got over there & all it was was a tent out in the middle of a corn field. We stood over there about an hour & heard them talk on the damn gas mask. We were the last bunk to go through. We went through once with our masks on "then came back through took our masks off & went on out. The gas was all out by the time we went through & I couldn't even tell it was in there. Everybody was so cold, they couldn't hardly hold onto there equipment. We marched all the way back against the wind & when we got here the damn barracks orderly for the day had let the fire go out & it was down to 45 in here. He sure caught hell. This morning we were supposed to go out into the rifle circle, but they took us inside one of those barns down here & had our drill in there. It wasn't quite as bad as being outside but almost. We got some pretty warm clothes & about all that really gets cold is your feet & fingers (Rct. Platt just now walked up to me & asked me if I'd write a letter for him tomorrow. He wants to write to his girlfriend this time). I'll get real mushy & maybe he'll get one back. He had me to read a letter from his mother this morning. He's quite a guy. Speaking of guys, we have several boys from Cleveland, Ohio here. One bunks with me. His name is Parllo. There is also Olubus & a Yeremba too. They're all Polish boys. This Olubus & Yeremba are both hell of a nice guys. Yeremba is pretty short & he weights about 240 lbs. The third platoon is the last in the Co. when we're marching & Yeremba is the last man in our platoon. They put the short guys in the rear. The last platton always has it tough because there is so much accordion works. Anyhow Yeremba falls out about every time we start double timing. This is kind of balled up but maybe you get what I mean. Platt just come back again & had me to read a letter from his girl. She surely ain't very old because she still goes to Clarks Hill school. I guess I'll have to write a letter for him tomorrow. I'll bet it sure is cold up there. A lot of our water pipes are froze up down here. I haven't heard from Mary yet. The chances will be pretty slim for me to get over there until I get six weeks in & then will start getting weekend passes. I can surely get over there then. I'll write her as soon as I hear. We are going to get a furlough around Christmas for sure, but other than that I can't tell you anymore. We get part of our Dec pay on the Dec 15 so as to have

money for Christmas. We get our Nov pay on the 30 of Nov. Before I forget it this is the way to write my address. Lumor ? had me promoted to a Pvt already. I wish I was it is:

Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 45049801

Co. B 502<sup>nd</sup> Abn Inf Reg

101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div

Camp Breckinridge, KY

They're pretty strict on addresses, is the reason I'm writing this down. When we first got here guys were putting mail in the box without stamps on them without a return address & even without the address on them, everybody sure got a kick out of it when someone was called out & told to put a stamp on it or an address. Well Bet I had better hit the sack. I just thought I'd write you this time as it really doesn't make any different. You all read it anyway. I'll have to start writing to some of the other people I promised to. Because they just don't understand what a feller does with all of his time. You don't have any time of your own here. PS Getting along fine-- Will write somebody in a few days. Love Clate.

Wednesday, 29 Nov 1950 – 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division – Camp Breckinridge, KY

Dear Folks,

It's noon and I just got back from chow so I'll try to write a few lines. This is the only chance I'll have time as I go on KP this evening. I haven't had time to write all week. Sunday I had 2 different details and then in the afternoon I had to write a letter to Platt's girl. I wrote one to H. Morgan also. Mon nite we were up until 11 o'clock cleaning rifles. Last nite (Tues) we went over for another shot. When we got over there there was about 2000 GI's getting shots, too. When we got inside the furnace had blown up and the smoke was so thick you couldn't hardly breathe. When we got back it was about 9. We had to clean and oil rifles again. Tomorrow I'm on KP all day. 4:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. They take us by alphabetical order. So every one pulls KP. It has warmed up some today. About 40-45 degrees. It sure was bad here for 2 or 3 days, but I guess it was worse up there. I got your letter mom. I just had time to run over it while they were handing out mail. So I'll read it later and give you the news. We have been going to a lot of classes map reading etc. and a lot on the MI. I'll have to quit here. Time to fall out. Will write later about Fri night maybe. So write and I'm OK. Love Clate

Mon. nite (postmarked Dec 6) – Dear Folks, Well, I have some time of my own tonite so I'll write a few lines. Everybody is sitting around eating cookies and whatnot. Mon. mail call is always loaded with boxes. We were back out to the rifle range today. It snowed about all morning, three guys got caught smoking in ranks on the way out and our platoon had to pull the pit detail by ourselves. I spent about 6 hrs in the pits. We hid cardboards on 1x4s shaped like man that we had to lift up and down. We got back in at 20 til 3. Tomorrow we got to get up at 4 again and hike 2 ½ miles out to the assault course. It's been pretty cold down here all day. We also got a new CO today. Lt. Albertson went to Bat. Hq. His name is Stoyne (Goynes?) I believe. Was you surprised to get a call from me. Max & me decided to call when we heard we weren't getting a furlough. We haven't heard any more yet. It never has come down from Battn. Hq. yet so we havn't lost hope inteirely. We might get a 12 hour pass anyhow. Things are mighty bad when they cancel all furloughs that of week. They're just handing it out to the public a little at a time. All Hell is going to break loose before long, then you can look for things to really clamp down. (I'm eating a butterscotch Sundae right now & I'm getting it all over everything). By the way, I bought one of those Co. pictures (\$2 – I was aiming to bring it home, but now I'll have to mail it somehow), but don't expect it to soon. I'll have to take it up to the Post o'ffice & I think I'll have to pull guard duty this weekend. Glad to hear J's shoes fit. If he'll work a good coat of polish into the leather they'll soften up a lot. A lot of these boots have probably been

stored a long time and they dried out. Esquire is about the last we can get down here, or Kiwi a lot of guys have threatened to go AWOL if they don't get a furlough. Two guys from A Co. are gone now. This place will float away in beer if they don't let some of them out of camp on Christ. I don't think I told you I got a letter from Larry's sister. They invited me over. Tell Bet I'll write them as quick as I can but she had better help me explain how it is here. But, if I do get a pass where I can get over to Henderson I'll get down to see them. I got a letter from Faye to. She's going to send me a box. If you can send me one sometime the next week or so, cookies, oranges, apples, nuts candy anything that can be eaten. I feel kind of guilty eating every else's stuff. Be sure to pack it good. Some boxes are tore all to Hell. I've been expecting Aunt Hazel's box to be that way. That will be Hell when a moldy manual ham sandwich comes rolling out. I had better get to bed. Let me know how much that telephone call was. Max put the call on through while he had the line and he just had the charges reversed. It makes it a lot simpler. I was a little afraid it might scare you. By the way, I just got paid the other day. There was about 12 in the co. that never. They paid me \$80. They've fouled up somewhere. Some guys got \$90 I should got around \$39 or \$41. That's what most of them got. Well write and give me all the news. That last letter was pretty good. Love, Clate P.S. Tell Dean W. to join the Air Corps if he thinks they are about to get him. But tell him ineto wait as long as he can. Also when he does join don't wait until winter and get his ass froze off going through basics. By the way how are all the neighbors?

No date, no envelope, just "Sunday nite" but I think it goes here. Dear Folks, It's 6 o'clock & I just got back from chow. I'm pulling guard duty tonite. I had the first watch from 2 to 4 o'clock & now I'm off til 8. It was sure cold & its supposed to get down to 4 above tonite. Ive got a 8 to 10 watch & 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. yet to pull. That last one is really going to be rough. I walk around A CO (624 steps; 8 corners) J you know what you do at corners. Ha! I think I'll make some round corners tonite. Well enough for the damn guard duty. I don't remember when I wrote you last, or what I told you in the letter, so I may tell you something over. We have been studying machine guns & Bazookas a lot this week. We have machine guns tomorrow & then we fire the bazooks Tues. Maybe I told you we went out to the assault range last Mon & then we came right back without firing a shot; it was to slick. Anyhow we had to go out again yesterday afternoon to make it up. Its about 2 1/2 or 3 mile out there Fri morn we took our first hike. We only had about 6 1/2 7 mil. We are getting a lot tougher, because hardly anyone complained about being tired when we got back. This damn Ky mud is sure hell. For some reason or other it wont dry up. Its just like soup. Well it looks like we are going to get a pass for Christ. If nothing else stops us we get off at Sat 12 noon until 11 o'clock Mon nite. Max wrote his folks for Ed to be here to pick us up. I guess he'll bring us back to. If nothing happens I ought to get in at about 6 o'clock or 7 o'clock. It just depends on the weather. But still don't look for me until you see me walk thru the door, because after they have changed our plans as many times as they have anything can happen. I think I told you once things are a lot more serious than people realize. When China threatened to declare war on us, that was just Russia using China's name. I've been getting several Christmas Cards. I got a letter & Christmas Card form Mrs. Husted. A box of candy from Aunt Hazel & one from Jim Thomas, I was surprised to get a box from Thomas's. I also got a Christmas card from them. I've been trying to find some Co. cards down here but the PX are sold out. It looks like I've got a lot of letter writing to do, or somebody is going to get sore, by the way, I got a letter form Bet & she said I should have go ta box from Faye by now. I've never gotten it up to yesterday eve (Sat). Maybe I'll get it tomorrow. There have been a lot of boxes coming in. It takes about a half hr for mail call anymore. By the way if you havnt got me anything for Chist yet, I would like to have a pair of fur lined leather gloves. But if you have I'll get them down here. Don't get them if you have all ready got me something. I would have like to get something for the kids, but I don't know what I could get for kids at a

damn PX. I'll just give them the money & they can get whatever they want. I would have like to got them something because money doesn't seem like a present. Well I had better close here & maybe I'll see you next Sat. Love, Clate.

Post Marked Jan 9 8:30 a.m. 1951 – Camp Breckinridge KY

Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 55049801 Co B 502<sup>nd</sup> Abn Inf Rgt. 101<sup>st</sup> Abn. Div, Camp Breckinridge, Ky – to John W. Morgan RR 3, Crawfordsville, Ind.

Sunday afternoon 1:00 – Dear Folks,

Just a few lines before I go out. Max, Obudris, Yeremba and me are taking off this afternoon before they get more details. I had to help clean up the latrine this morning. Some of the others had to shove the walk off. It snowed about 3" last night. We were out to the rifle range yesterday all day. It was around 15 miles out there. We went out in trucks and they got lost. We were over an hour getting there. It was in the middle of nowhere. There are a lot of such places down here. It was muddy as hell out there. An ammunition truck marred down in the middle of a bean field and broke his winch and they finally sent for a wrecker to pull him out. We had classes on range estimation and in the afternoon we had squad practice – 8 riflemen and 1 B.A.R. would fire out of fox holes at targets that would popup at different ranges (300-800 yd). We were firing traces. It started snowing about 3:30 p.m. We were supposed to have an inspection by Lt. Col Brown yesterday while we were out but he didn't come yet when we got back. He was over at D Co. and we thought he would get to us, but he never did get here. We GI'd the barracks Thursday and Friday nights. We have an inspection by Gen. Ryan tomorrow and we have got to GI it again tonight. I forgot to tell you, they issued passes to anybody who wanted one last night (from 6 o'clock last night to 6 o'clock tonight). They have to be back tonight in order to help on that inspection. The weather was so bad I didn't take any about 1/3 of the CO. took passes. If they ever issue any from Sat. noon to Sun midnight I may try to come home in a few weeks. I could fly from Evansville to Indianapolis for \$5. The only thing that would foul me up is getting from Evansville back to Camp on Sunday night (that's \$5 just one way). Well I better sign off here. The schedule for next week is all out doors except 2 hrs so I may not get to write for awhile. Love, Clate

Again on the stationary of 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne – no date and it has been taken out of the original envelope – dated Thurs. afternoon – I assume *Thanksgiving day* 1950– Dear Folks, just a line to send back by Servies. They got here at about 8:35 . it took 4 ½ hours to drive it. Max came in just now and said they were ready to leave so I'll have to hurry. I got the box OK. It sure looked good. I couldn't set there and eat it by myself so I just sent it around the barracks. You should have seen the guys go for those cup cakes. About everybody downstairs got something or other out of the box. I got what I wanted alright. The main thing I wanted to tell you was about our dinner. You never seen anything like it. We had turkey and all the stuff that went with it. Then they had pumpkin pies, bowls of fruit (grapes, oranges, bananas, etc) bowls of nuts, fruit juice, ice cream; a lot of different kinds of salad and then they had a pack of cigarets at each place. They had all the tables end to end. It's snowing like hell right now outside (1<sup>st</sup> since I'd been her). I wrote you last night also Max. Should get it Sat or Mon. I haven't got anymore letters since those two Mom from you & Bet. I had better stop because I imagine S. wants to get going. I'm fine especially after that dinner. Write me the news when you can. I had to fire the furnace all night last night. Told you in that letter you'll get. I'm sure sleepy today. Thanks again for the box. Love Clate

Tues eve (postmarked Dec 12 12:30 p.m. 1950– – Dear Folks, I suppose you're raising hell because I haven't written. The answer is still the same. I just havn't had time. It's getting worse every day. I thought I would get one wrote on Fri. nite. Instead we GI'd the barracks until

12:00. I suppose I had better go back a little and come up to date. The next day after I wrote that other letter I pulled KP. They got us up at 10 til 4 and we worked 17 ½ hrs right straight through, except about 15 minutes off for each meal. I scraped pots and pans until I was blue in the face. I sure had dishwasher hands. The funniest thing was the guy that fired the stoves and water heater. His name is Misrack and his Dad is filthy rich – anyhow I don't think he had ever seen a bunk of coal. If the fires went out and they did a dozen times. He sure got an "ass chewin." He's actually VP of the electrical wholesale factory his dad owns. I think the guy will go off his nut before he ever gets through basic. He's sure taking it hard. Like I said we GI'd the barracks Fri nite. We were short of mops and brooms so Max & me went out & stole some off of a fire escape. I'm going to have to stop pretty soon. The whistle blew there and we had to fall out. They said we are to go on the rifle range tomorrow. We got up at 4:00. I got a letter from Kate & Freddie last night. Just now read it. I suppose John got the shoes. They just cost \$6.26. Hope they fit. That EE was as wide as I could get. I got some wool pad socks. I'll bring home too. By the way we drew out of the hat for our furlough. I drew Dec 28-Jan 1. Or there close (5 days). Some guys got 10 days (Dec 23 – Jan 1) Some (Dec 23-28). I was just unlucky. Max got Dec 23-28. There is a lot of bitchin because some guys live way over in Ohio and they say it'll take all the time to travel. I'm not complaining because it's better than none. Everybody couldn't have 10 days. All the married guy sand guys that are going to get married got 10 days. (Sure a lot of guys getting' married). Platt was one I didn't see anything in her letter that said she would – HaHa! The weather hasn't been bad down here lately but it started snowing this eve. I suppose it is bad up there. I got a letter from Bet & Pudge sometime last week. Tell them not to look for a letter to son. I just can barley find time for this one. I've got to clean and oil my rifle yet and there some one hollered mail call. Well I got a letter form you and one from Bet. About Christmas, I don't know of anything I need unless its another pocket knife. Max wants to get me a camera. Why don't you all go in together and get it if you want to. I can't think of anything else right now. I can't even think period. The war sure does look bad. They give us the news about everyday and it looks like we could get our ass shipped over by spring easy enough. You think they're talking about it up there you should be down here. If it gets much worse you can look for all furloughs to get canceled. So don't bank on it. Well I'll stop here. How is J& Ray getting along down in the woods and let me know the rest of the news. I'm fine except for a little cold. Love Clate – send a few stamps.

Jan 4, 1951 – still at Camp Breckinridge only now a Pvt – Wed. nite – 8 o'clock – Dear Folks, I was just getting ready to write when they hollered mail call. I wasn't expecting a letter so soon. I was aiming to tell you that I thought they were going to give you the allotment because I got paid yesterday & I got \$12. So I was pretty sure you was going to get it. I figured I would get around \$35 per month so that's about what I got \$20 before Christ & \$12 now. We got down here about 10 o'clock; Max got a letter from his Mom & she said Ed got back at 6:30 the next morning. He stopped in Cloverdale & slept awhile & ate breakfast in Greencastle. I'll bet he was dead when he got in. The next morning we had a class on patrolling. It rained all morning about & we crawled on our bellies up a damn ditch about 300 yds. It took us about an 1 ½ hrs. I was soaked to the skin, besides the mud. It didn't do much good to wash my field jacket. When we came back in at noon we thought we would have the afternoon off to clean our rifles & clothes, but after dinner we went out about six miles & fired the 50 cal. Machine gun. It rained all afternoon out there too. We also had a demonstration on the flame thrower the last hour out there. We were pretty miserable last night but I guess everybody took it all right though because I didn't see anyone go on sick call today. Today we got up at 4:30 & we went out to the rifle range & fired the BFR. It rained about all morning out there too bad it wasn't too cold today & it wasn't so bad. We ate chow out there. We finally got all the ammo. Fired up & we came back in at 3 o'clock & they let us have the rest of the day off to clean up & GI the barracks.



Well I've run out of space & time so I'll quite & write later. Write whenever you have a chance  
Love, Clate

No date but should go about in here – Sun nite – Dear Folks – I havn't anything to do so I'll write a line or two. It sure has been a pretty day here today. I have just been laying around all day. Max left yesterday at noon. He came back over last night. He is in a processing center over there. He checks through all of the papers of guys like me when we ship out to see that there are no mistakes & the like. He said it will probably be a little hard for awhile until he gets on to it. It sounded like a pretty good job though compared to mine. The Gray boy from Waynetown went to another company. He is going to be a truck driver. There were about a half dozen who are in the same thing, a lot of men went to other companies to be cadre. The McNulty boy from N. Ross is going to get a discharge. I don't know anymore than that. Titus is going with me & so is Olubus & Zeremba Misrick, the rich boy is going to Stoneman too & it has him about worried to death. Well I had better stop here. The main thing I wanted to tell you is that they won't let us leave until morning right after breakfast. I guess they wont let anybody ship out at night. So it may be about noon before I get there. Platt & the Horn boy went home this weekend & they're brining Horn's car back. He has a 49 Mercury so it shouldn't take us long to get there. We went up last night at 5 & got another shot. I had 5 pinicillin shots over at the hospital & then I had to take 3 more & that 1 last night when I got back here. Well that's all I can think of right now.

Jan 30, 1951 – (Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 55049801 Co A Replacement Bn, Camp Stoneman, Calif postmark)

Dear Folks, Well, I think this is the first letter I've written in three weeks. I'm barracks orderly again today. I took it for Northrop who wanted to go on a pass so I told him I would take it. It sure has been hell to. It has rained and misted about all day. On top of that we didn't have any coal in the company until just now they brought a load I had to wheel it down from the guardhouse in a wheel barrow. I had the 6 to 10 shift last night. Max is pulling guard today. They went on at 2 yesterday afternoon & they got off at 3 today. It sure has been rough on them. It really poured last night. Max was in awhile ago & he was just about pooped out. He had been on four watches (2 hr). He was through but they wont let anyone go until 3 o'clock. Sat afternoon we had a Regimental parade for Gen. Ryan. I couldn't tell how it was because all you can see when you're in one is helmet liners. J knows how that is. It don't look like I'll be getting home anymore on weekends. I think we have all day next Sat & then Monday we go on bivouac. We'll be out from 12 to 14 days. I don't know just when we'll get in. If we come in before Sat, we'll probably get Sat. afternoon off. That'll be about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in Feb. Well only have one more week here after that. Nobody knows where we're going after that. Some of the 6 weeks basics have been shipped to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas to the Medics. Last Friday we went out to range 23 & we had to walk back. It was about 14 miles. We started at 1 o'clock & got in at 5:15. It wouldn't have been so bad, but we had to walk flank guard. I walked it once. They put a whole squad out on each side of the road about 50 yd & you are supposed to keep up with the rest of the Co. We had wore our overcoats out that morning & when I was on that flankguard I was ring & wet. We went accross corn fields through hedge rows & accross creeks. One time one of the squads passed right in behind a farm house & out come a woman madder than hell. I could imagine what she said. The boys crawled right over her garden fence & she was still cussin as far as I could see. Well I had better sign off here. We have the mortar the first 3 days next week & Sat. we're on the range with the BAR. By the way I'm a Pvt now. It's a little different. It's signed Pvt-1 or something like that. You had better just sign Rct yet until I found out for sure. I don't get anymore pay though. They have just done away with Rct.

Well they have called "chow" so I had better get down there. Write when you can & I'll let you know if I find out where I'm goin. Love Clate – PS Have they heard from Harold yet. I haven't heard from you yet. (another word – looks like think?)

Feb 1 postmark 12:30 p.m. Airborne Division Breckinridge, Kentucky to John W Morgan, RR 3, Crawfordsville, Indiana—Dear Folks, just a few lines while I have time. I got paid tonight (\$30). That's just about what I thought I would get. It has been snowing all afternoon here. It's about 3 inches deep now & its supposed to get 6 inches deep by morning. It has been pretty cold down here the last few days but I guess its that way everywhere, A company is out on bivouac this week & I imagine they are really sufferin'. It don't look much better for us next week, even if it gets warmer the damn snow will probably melt & it will be a mess then. We started out this week on the mortar & after a day & ½ they stopped us because we only had one mortar for us to work with. Tell J. they're bringing out a 6 inch mortar now. We were studying the 60 mm. The last 2 days we have been on Squad tactics. I don't imagine I'll be home anymore until I get out of here until it's the last week. I got your & Bets letter & I'm sending Lois Ann a \$1 for her birthday. Well Max wants me to go to the show so I had better close & write later. I really can't think of anything to write about anyhow. We have had a few hints that well all be busted up when we leave here. Some will go to school, artillery, etc. That's the way they've been doing the 6 wk guys, but there haven't been any 14 weeks leaving yet as we were about the first to get here. But that's about what I figure we'll be doing. I think I told you that some have gone to Texas to the medics. Well I'll close & maybe I can write Sat or Sun but if you don't here from me for a couple of weeks you'll know I'm on bivouac. I don't know how writing conditions will be out there so you may not here from me until I get back. Write when you can. Love, Clate

March 19 – dated Tues nite 6:30 – Dear Folks, just a few lines before I go over to see Olubas. He just got in last nite. They didn't leave Cleveland until 12 midnite Sunday. I guess it was in the papers & on the radio about 30 some soldiers on their way to Korea being stranded at the airport. Four guys form our CO (1 that's my old CO B) got their shipping order yesterday eve & they left this afternoon. They're flying to Japan. They had no idea why they were pulled out. We're through processing now. Yesterday we were at the theater all day. They gave us a lot of bull on Korea & the like. For today we got paid this morn. They gave everybody about \$36. That's what I got. This afternoon I got picked in a detail clipping grass along a sidewalk around the orderly room. I'll probably have to pull KP in another day or two. It takes about 100 KPS per day. You see they just feed 5000 per meal and it takes 3 hrs per meal to feed that many. SO I'm really looking for to that. The chow is pretty good considering they feed so many. They have milk about every meal. I hear you had about 6" of snow. The weather out here is really nice. It gets up to about 75 in the shade in the day time & down to about 50 at night. We leave all the windows & doors open at night & only one blanket over us so you see it isn't very cold. In fact its to hot to sit out in the sun in the daytime, a lot of the flowers are in bloom also. (Before I Forget it you can write me here at that address). I don't imagine I'll be pulling out for about 10 days yet. We handed our overcoats in today. I could have sent it home but I didn't want the damn thing & the linepostage on 22 lbs would have been more than it was worth. I also have to send my Ike jacket home or hand it in. I don't know what I'll do yet. I also have an extra poncho. I may try to send some of that stuff home in that hand bag. Well that's about all the news I have for right now so write when you can. Love, Clate

No date, no envelope, but this seems to go in here – Sun 10 a.m. – Dear Folks, We got in here this morning about 5 o'clock. We landed in Oakland at 6 this morning, that is really 4 o'clock but I

hadn't set my watch back yet. The last part of the trip wasn't to bad, but I got awfully tired. We landed once more at Bakersfield, Calif for gas & then came on to Oakland, San Francisco & Oakland together are sure pretty at night. They brought us out to camp by bus. It took us about an hour to drive it. We went through Oakland & through towns & up hill & down hill so much I don't know which way we came. There are mountains all around here. There are mountains about a mile over west here. The grass is real green & they look like they have been mowed like a golf course. There aren't very many trees on them & they sure are pretty. It was pretty cool when we got in but it is real warm here now. I talked to a guy from A Co. & he said they have been alerted & he thought they would leave sometime this week. He said they told him they were going to Japan for more training & they even told them what ship they were leaving on. So it don't look like they are keeping it very secret. We got a lot of equipment this morning (Helmet, shovel, pack & sleeping bag). Well, I wrote a little on a couple of cards & got in Amarillo, Texas, but I'll try to tell you a little more. I could have come home Friday nite, but it would have been late when I got in & I would have had to left by 8 or 8:30 & I didn't think it was worth it. If they had of told us the damn plane wouldn't be in until 2 o'clock I might have come home. We was supposed to leave at 10 & then when 10 came they said it would be 12:30 so 2 o'clock rolled around before we finally pulled out. I don't think much of riding an airplane, at least when it was one like that. The seats were hard as rocks & it wasn't line wide & the frost stood out on the walls. You couldn't hear yourself think. Well I've wrote about all the news. I'll have to find out a return address before I mail this letter. I'll write more later if I hear anything. Love, Clate – PS I may try to write a letter to Max sometime today – don't try to write me yet.

March 22 1951 --8 p.m. -- Postmarked Stoneman, Calif – Pvt. Charles C. Morgan US 55049801 Co A Replacement Bn, Camp Stoneman, Calif – Wed nite 6:30 – Dear Folks, Just a few lines to let you know I've been alerted & probably will ship out Fri. I'm up here at the service club. I brought my bag up to send it home. It is shipped COD so you can look for it in about 5 days or a wk. Everything is OK out here. It has been cloudy all day & a little bit cooler. I told you to write me but I doubt if I get the letter before I ship out so don't try to write anymore. It will probably come back to you. There were four guys that shipped out by plane yesterday for Japan (I think I told you that in the last letter). They sure are shipping out a mess everyday. Most go out about the middle of the night. There is a shipment out of A Co. going tonight. They're called the advance party. That's why I think will ship Fri. Well that's about al the news for now so if I do ship Fri I'll try to write once more before I leave. Love, Clate. PS Save some clipping on the state final BB games. I heard Muncie Central won.

No date, no envelope but think this goes about here – Thurs eve 6 o'clock – Dear Folks, Well I pull out in the morning. We get up at 3, eat at four & fall out at 5:15 ready to go. We turned in our bedding & drew our rifles this afternoon. On my way back to the barracks who do I see standing in front of the next barrack but the Surface boy. I knew he would be out some time today & had intended looking for him tonight but there he was planted right beside me. We're up here at the service club now. He's sending some clothes home. He is the only one in his outfit in that barracks. He don't know anybody nor whether he stays in the engineers or what. I don't think I'll have any trouble telling you where I'm at but just in case I do, I'll give you the code again, so there will be know mistakes. Use this code in case its different

Mr. John – for Japan

Plain John – for Korea

A debt for my division

& Birthday for Germany. I know that's right but just to make sure. Well that's about all the news for now so I'll write again whenever I can. Love Clate

March 23, 1951 – Fri morn 9 a.m. – same address as above – Dear Folks, Just a few lines in with this picture. I'm on a harbor boat taking us to San Francisco to get on the ship. It takes about 4 hrs to get there. There is a pretty nice ride so far. They are starting to feed now, it will take a good while before they get to me as my line no. is 1428. The bay comes all the way into Pittsburgh if you'll look on a map. There are mountains along one side of us & they are sure a pretty sight. You can write to this return address. I'm pretty sure its right. You write Surface's folks & give them my address. He is going to have them give you his. There might be a chance that I could see him again in case we got to Japan. I still think I'm going to Japan. I wrote Max & Buck last night after I wrote you. You can give her this address Casual Personal Center, APO 613 c/o Postmaster San Francisco, Calif. I suppose she knows my serial no. My name goes before that too. Well that's about all I can tell you now. Love, Clate

April 5 – Thurs night – Dear Folks, Just a few lines to let you know I'm on land again. It's 11:30 p.m. so I won't try to tell you much. We got in to Yokhoma, Japan at about 3 yesterday afternoon. We started seeing land about 9 a.m. We didn't get off the ship though until today at 1 p.m. We rode on a train out there to Camp Drake. It was a 3 hr ride through Yokohama & Tokyo. About 25 miles. It was a sight I'll never forget. The crossing took us 11 days. It wasn't bad at all. I never did a thing all the way across. We went wherever we wanted to. It was pretty stormy & rough about 4 days. I never got a bit sick (J. would believe that). The chow on the ship was pretty poor but they had a PX on board so we got along pretty well. We just got done processing for the night. I made out an additional allotment of 420 so you'll get the first one I think in June. It looks like we'll be here till Sat (day after tomorrow) then to Pusan. I won't have a permanent address until I get my mail by this one til then. You'll probably get this one in about a week & before yours catches up with me it will probably be another 2 weeks. I'll try to write whenever I get a chance. Write & give me all the news. Love Clate PS We skipped a day & set our watches back 9 hrs all together from CST so you can figure out what time it is here. I think it I about 9 a.. Wed morn there while it is Mid Thurs here. HA (Larry can probably straitin you out on that time). Don't worry if I shouldn't get to write again for awhile.

April 9 – 8 p.m. Mon nite-- Dear Folks, I don't know when I'll get this letter marked. Well, I'm on the last leg of the journey. I'm on a ship now. We got on about 2 this afternoon. We'll be there in the morning at 7:30. I've really been on the move lately. I spent one day & ½ on a train. We came clear down to the southern tip of Japan. It was really a wonderful ride. A guy just never gets tired of looking at this country. You can't imagine nor could I ever tell you just what it is like. You just want to cry when you see how these people have to work and slave to eek out a living & I understand they're living a 100% better than they ever did before. I don't suppose a truck would have held all the candy & cigarettes the GIs through to the kids on that trip. The people are all real friendly. Most of this country is mountains. They farm right up the side of the mountains. It seems like you go out from little village right into another. I think we went through a 100 tunnels on the way. We've got several new clothes since we've been here in Japan. The army has a new overcoat that is really nice. Of course it is to heavy for combat. We got a wool-lined pile jacket & cap also. By the way before I forget it I owe John 7 dollars. I wish you would pay him for me. I have no permanent address yet. I won't have until I get to my outfit. I've told you to not write and then to write so much I'll bet you're really confused but go ahead and write as the guys are getting letters by that address. I got a letter from you postmarked the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. I got it on about the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Well I don't know much else to tell you now. Just don't worry about me, I'm getting along fine the chow over here has been better than I ever had in the states. I'll write whenever I get a chance again, but don't

worry if it ever runs for quite a spell before you here from me. They are really shoving us around. & its hard to get a chance. Love, Clate

Very hard to read – quite smudged and on old memograph paper but there is a letter from Headq 7<sup>th</sup> Division telling about the division whose history began in WWI and has progressed without tarnish through campaigns in the Aleutians, Pacific Island, occupation duty in Korea & Japan and now in being made by men like this our newest arrivals. Duties may seem arduous and difficult at times, devotion to duty will be demanded...Maurice F. Powers, Chaplain Lt Col US Army

**Soldiers Name: Charles C. Morgan**

**Unit Address: 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt 7<sup>th</sup> Div APO 7, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco Calif Soldiers Rank & Signature Pvt Charles c> Morgan US 55049801**

**4:30 p.m. April 11, 1951 – Dear Folks, Just a line or 2 to let you know I got into the 7<sup>th</sup> Div Replacement Center about noon today. We'll probably pull out tomorrow. I don't know much else. This country is sure tore to hell. Nothing but mountains & rock. I expect we'll go on up by truck. I'll try to write more later. Love, Clate**

**April 17 – Noon Tuesday – Dear Folks, Just a line or two to let you know I'm ok. We're up here about 7 miles from the 38<sup>th</sup> taking 5 days training before we go to our regular outfits. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. The 31<sup>st</sup> regt was in reserve when we came in & we have just been moving up behind the lines. Last night was the first night I had slept in a place twice since we left Camp Drake, Japan. It is pretty cool here of nights but it gets real nice in the day time. It hasn't rained any since we came into the reg't. In fact it is pretty dusty when the wind blows. The 31<sup>st</sup> is supposed to relieve the 17<sup>th</sup> pretty soon so it looks like I won't much more than hit my company than we'll be going on line. Those damn mountains are hell. They're just right straight up & then down & up again. The one on the other side is just a little higher. There are no towns left. Maybe once in a while you will see an old mud hut sticking around on a hillside but that's about all. In other words this is the "shit hole" of the world. When we were back at Chechon they brought us on up by truck. We started at 10 that morn & got in at 11 that night. There was about 50 trucks in the convoy & we had to ford a river about 6 times. The trucks would get stuck & it was a hell of a mess. Since then we have walked (yes) every time we move. I'm pretty soft after laying around for so long but I guess I'll get hardened in a hell of a hurry. The chow is pretty good so far. I've eaten in about 6 different places & they all feed pretty good. I should get a permanent address in a few days. I'll write as soon after as I can. Keep track of the dates on the letters you have wrote. Love, Clate.**

**April 21 – 7 p.m. – Dear Folks, Well I'm in my Co. now. I sent a card as soon as I got in with my address. That will be my permanent address now. Just in case it gets smeared up here it is again: Co. A 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt APO 7 c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif. This is the second day I've been here. We had a big field inspection by the 10<sup>th</sup> Corps Commander & of the Div commander. We stood out there all day. It sure was a dilly. Everything just so so. We are sitting right on the 38<sup>th</sup> now. In fact, I'm on the North Korea side. I'm in the 4<sup>th</sup> squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon. They put me on a bazooka as assistant gunner I don't know how long I'll stay there. There are a lot of guys going home on rotation. Some guys have been over here since last August. The first 3 grade Sgts have to stay until somebody can take their place. They sure are crying the blues. It looks like this bet rank in the army is still the old Pvt. So maybe I'll be home by Christmas even if the war isn't over. I look for it to end sometime this summer though. If it does I may have to pull some occupation. I'll gladly stay just so I don't have to spend a winter here fighting. Well it's getting dark so I had better stop. Just thought I would drop a line or two & let you know I'm ok. Love, Clate PS None of my old outfit are with me.**

April 22 – post card – Pvt Charles c. Morgan Co A 1<sup>st</sup> BN 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt APO 7 c/o Postmaster san Francisco, Calif To: John Morgan RR 3, Crawfordsville, Ind – Noon Fri April 20, 1951 – Dear Folks, I'm just sitting around waiting to be shipped to my outfit. I should have a permanent address by then & I thought I would get this car ready to send out. I hav'nt got anymore letters since that one I got at camp Drake, you had just got the car back. It has been pretty cool here the last 3 days. It rained yesterday morning. I don't know anything else right now. Love, Clate

April 27, 1951 – Dear Folks – I will try to write a few lines while I have a little time. It's sure been hell the last few days. We've been on the move continually. We climb one mountain & stay over night & then climb another the next day. It takes about 2 hrs to climb one & about 1 hr to come down. You think you are going to die before you get to the top. It wouldn't be so bad but you've got a full field pack our rifle & I've been carrying 5 rounds of bazooka ammo. The last day or two, I think I told you I'm in a machine gun squad. I've had to help carry it some too & sometimes I carry a box of ammo for it. It all adds up to about 80 lbs. The Chinks have hit us pretty hard lately A Co is the only company that hasn't been hit the last nite or two. I think the 7<sup>th</sup> Div is the only one still across the 38<sup>th</sup> & it looks like we're going to have to pull back too. The nights are pretty rough. Four hrs is the most I've ever gotten the last 4 nites. Last nite I only got about 2 ½ hrs. The chinks started blowing whistles about 3 o'clock & that was about the end of the sleep. It was probably a patrol out. That's the way they keep in contact with one another. The whistles are real soft & one will blow over to your left & then another to your right. They'll keep that up until almost day light. Our Co. commander got hit by some of our artillery that fell short last night. They took him out by hycocopter (sic) this morning. About all the guys talk about is rotation about a day or two after I got to my squad a guy left on rotation & when they told him he almost went crazy. He left just in time as we pulled out that same night. I guess if there is a "hell on earth" it is here, because when you see men cry after climbing for about 2 hrs up one of these damn mountains, you know it's bad. Once you're up there at night its just about fight or die, because it would practically be impossible to come down one at night. You might not believe it but a lot of guys want to get hit just so they can get out of here. I just as soon walk out in one piece myself, but most of these guys have been over her from 5 to 8 months & they've just about lost all hope. Well that's about all the space I have for right now. I'll probably be getting some mail in about another wk. Love Clate. (I guess it takes about 2 wks after you get to your co before you get any mail).

April 28 – noon – Dear Folks, I guess by the time you read this all the news will be stale. We pulled back about 20 mile day before yesterday & dug in. We were supposed to pull back some more today, but we've sat here all morning & they havn't give us the word yet to pull out. They just sent out a tank patrol to contact them again. We expected to get hit last night but they didn't come our luck will have to run out one of these nights. We havn't been hit yet. These nights are pretty rough. I don't know when I've had more than 4 hrs sleep any one night last. When we pulled back we walked 17 miles fully loaded. They had hot chow when we got in that night. After eating C rations for 3 days it sure tasted good. The weather has been pretty nice here so far. It did rain a couple of nights ago. It gets pretty cool at night but it warms up in the day time. I don't think I told you about the guys in my squad. The squad leaders name is Devillier. He's from Texas & I guess that about explains him. He sure is a blow gut. So is another guy from Arkansas by the name of Cossey. There is a Davis from Tennessee, Polton from Calif, I think & Hewett from Mich. Those three are pretty nice guys. There was a new guy named Callous from Missouri that came in a couple days after I did. I don't think I told you that there was a Morgan that left on rotation the day I came to the Co. Well I guess that's

about all the news I have right now. I guess all this withdrawal started over around Seoul. The Gooks really poured down on them which you probably have read about by now, a GI gets less news than anybody as far as what goes on. Guys pick up a little on the telephone but that's about all we get. So any interesting items in the paper send along as I would like to know how the Korean War is coming along too. "HA" Well I've got to climb down this mountain for chow so will stop here, Love, Clate.

May 2 – 7 p.m. – Dear Folks (this on a nice Mother's Day card May 13) – Dear Folks, Just a line before I get ready for bed. The Division moved from the central part over to between Lucham & Seoul yesterday. We came over by truck about 50 mile I think. The 31<sup>st</sup> is in reserve right now. They don't know when or where the Chinks will hit next. If they break through somewhere we'll be sent to plug a hole. We've just layed around all day today, it sure is nice. This part of the country is more thickly settled than where we came from. Still al mountains though. I suppose there is some talk about this new Red offensive back there. Don't worry about it. One mountain is just as good as another to fight on. The only way we can win this war is kill a million or so of these Chinks & that is going to take a long time. That's about all I have for now. I'm sorry I haven't anything to send you Mom for Mother's Day so promise me you'll spend the 1<sup>st</sup> Class E allotment you get on yourself. Love Clate – along the side of the stationary/card is this note: I'm getting along fine. Don't worry.

May 6 – 12 noon – Dear Folks, I've got a little time so I'll write a few lines. Somebody said today is Sunday so it's about 8 o'clock Sat night there. We've moved a couple times since I wrote you last. My platoon was on a road block for day & night & then we moved to here. That was day before yesterday. We kicked about 7 mile right through the mountains. It rained all afternoon & that night. Everybody was sure miserable when we got in that night. I never got dried off all night. Yesterday we had to go work on the road. It's more like a trail. Jeeps is the only thing that can get through. They airdropped our supplies in yesterday about noon. Then we had to wade out across the rice paddies & carry them out. We've just sat around this morning. I didn't have to go work on the road. I wrote Max a couple or three days ago. If you want to send me a box of something put it in metal containers & it will keep a lot better. I think I told you it takes about a month & a half to get a box. A fellow told me the other day you can get a box by airmail in about 10 days but it costs ninty cents a lb that way. I never have got any more letters. I'm just hoping you're getting mine. One guy here got a letter form his mother & she hadn't hear from him in 7 weeks & he said he had written every week. She was about worried to death. I have no idea how long we'll set here. It seems like we're a hundred mile from nowhere. Well that's about all the news I have now. If I ever here from some of you, I'll try to write some to others but there isn't much to write about I'm getting along ok. Love, Clate

May 11 – 12:30 – Dear Folks, Well I've finally started to get my mail. I got four last night. One was from Bet dated April 8 saying Ma had died. That's the first I knew of it. This part is for that letter. She asked me if any of my old outfit are with me. I think I told you I'm the only one in my Co. 2 other guys went to Hq Co. About the Surface boy. There is a new guy in my squad that took engineers training with him. He knows him well. This boy's name is Weber from south of Indianapolis. He thought Surface went to the 24<sup>th</sup> Div. He could have come right to my squad as Weber & him were still together until they split them here in Korea. Well that's about all for that letter, I got a letter from Max dated May 2. She said there had been a big plane crash at Fort Wayne while she & Buck were down home. I also got a letter from Dean Wininger. Sounds like he's going to let them draft him. Maybe the damn war will be over by then but I doubt it. There seems to be no end to these Gooks, I guess Congress is really in a battle over MacArthur etc. In a way I think he's right by wanting to bomb Manchuria. To

hell with Russia. We just as well find out now if she'll takle us. This damn ware is costing the US millions every day that it goes on. It's just like killing flies. You have to destroy their breeding (sic) place or you can squat them all day long & can't tell you've killed any. The planes have really been pounding hell out of them this morning but tonight they could still roll down on us by the thousands. If you'll look on a war map you'll see a sag in the lines east of Seoul. We're waiting for them to hit us hard here & then they're going to withdraw & then level off these mountains with artillery & mortars. It's called "operation Gateway" so we'll watch & see what becomes of it. I guess I never told you I got the letter written April 30. I had just got back the night before from taking Old Lady Eggers stuff. I expect it's a pretty good idea to quit Ray. When it gets hot he probably would be looking for timber all the time & J & Kelley would do the work. Hell J's got enough equipment without Ray & Ray sure as hell can't hurt you any after you do quit him. By the way how did the hogs come out. Did they have many pigs. By the way that letter I got in Japan you said Pudge had just called about something they would know about soon or something. You sure left me hangin by my finger nails. Did Pudge ever write me. I'll try to write her in a few days. Well that's about all for now. Will write again in a few days. I'm getting along ok. Love, Clate

May 12 -4:00 p.m. == Dear Folks, I've been waiting to hear from you but I havn't yet so I'll go ahead & write a few lines anyway. I got a letter from bet on the 7<sup>th</sup> I think & J wrote here the next day. They said there would be some mail come through this evening but it hasn't yet. There hasn't been any come through the last 2 or 3 days. It's about 10 mile back to the CP but they manage to get us a hot meal at noon each day. We eat C-rations for breakfast & supper then I forgot to tell you that we really have good chow when they get it to us but damn the C-Rations. We've just been setting here the last few days. Some of the platoon has been working on the road & yesterday we went back on the next hill & dug in there so if we get hit very hard we are supposed to pull back there. Tomorrow we are supposed to go on a 3-day patrol with B&D Co's. That will really be rough as hot as it has been. It has been hitting around 80 or 90 degrees here the last few days & I imagine we'll sweat our hind ends off. We've got 2 more men in the lst 3 days. One is a damn nigger. That makes 10 men in our squad now. 5 of us are new men. They're sending a man or 2 every few days on rotation now. I heard that all the 6 mos. Men will be out of here by the middle of June. Well that's about all the news I have right now, I'm getting along fine. Love, Clate

May 16, Note: Most of the latter letters do not have enveloped - 11 a.m. Dear Folks, I haven't written for a few days so while I have a chance I'll write a few lines. We are still here in the same place. It rained all day and night before last. Aobut 26 was without a letup. It stopped yesterday but was cloudy all day. The sun is shining bright but the wind is blowing and it's pretty cool here this morning. I haven't heard from any of you since I got a letter from Pudge except last night I did get a letter from Bet dated April 1<sup>st</sup> & one from Florence dated about the 13<sup>th</sup>. She is sure worried about Rich. She supposed I was seeing a lot of beautiful country - HA!" We have been getting two hot meals a day lately breakfast & supper. By the time you climb back up here thought you're about as hungry as ever. We had fried chicken last night & they even brought fresh fried eggs for breakfast this morning. The chow is plenty good enough all the time as far as that's concerned. Well there isn't much else to write about so I'll close here & maybe when I here from you I'll have more to write. Love, Clate

May 19 - 11:00 a.m. - Dear Max & Buck, I'm not sure what the date is but the 19<sup>th</sup> is pretty close. I've lost all track of the date the last 4 or 5 days. We've been on the move again since I wrote you last. Two nites ago they got us up at 11 & said we were moving out. We walked until 1:30 & got on trucks. We rode until about 6:30 the next morning. We took over the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines



positions. It rained about all night the next nite. It sleeted about 1 ½" in about 10 minutes too. It was cloudy all day yesterday but the sun is shining today & it is some warmer. Well it is 4:10 p.m. now. I got held up for awhile. A Lt. from Bn Hq. slipped up on me & Davis & started giving us hell about our foxhole. It turned out the one he was raising hell about wasn't even ours. He had to say something about ours though so he said it could stand to be a little deeper. I felt like telling him to try digging a few holes on these damn rocks a few times. We dug until he left & then quit. This afternoon I went down & took a bath & cleaned up in the river. It sure felt good on the way back up I picked up my mail. I got five letters. 3 from Mom (April 16, Apr 21<sup>st</sup> & May 12) 1 from Max Servies April 15 & Bet April 19. I'm surely about caught up on this back mail. Bet's letter told about Ray Hardacker dieing. Word came in awhile ago that they have spotted a whole corp of Chinese out in front to f us. Our patrol surely run into them because about an hr ago there was a lot of small arms fire about 1000 yds out. About a ½ doz jets came in pretty soon & they mauled hell out of something for about a ½ hr. Well Max that's about all I can think of for now. Love Clate PS If you ever ask me something & I forget to tell you ask me again in the next letter.

May 20 – 7:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, Well, I got five letters this afternoon so I feel pretty (*good*) now & will write a few lines. I got three from you (April 16, Apr 21<sup>st</sup> & May 12) 1 from Bet April 19<sup>th</sup> & one from Max Servies (Apr 15). I wrote Bet yesterday & Max & Buck today. We have moved again but Bet's letter has got all the details on that. It has been pretty nice here today but it looks like rain again tonite. The planes have been working on them today & the artillery & Mortarts works on them all nite, a squad patrol out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon was out all day today (but they didn't see a thing). I took a bath & shaved this afternoon & wrote a letter to Max is about all I got done. Well there isn't much else I can tell you as things are pretty quiet now. I guess I have been writing some pretty gruesome letters. Don't think I'm up here by myself. If they do hit us some night they're sure as hell going to be "hurtin." We've got everything but BB gun pointing down this mountain side, besides Mines trip flares & barbed wire out in front of us. Then there are 3 tanks setting down by the river. So you see it's not so dangerous as it might seem. So don't let me worry you to much. I'm just one in 250,000 over here. Well you asked me what about the \$7 I owed J. Don't you remember I said I would mention a debt to tell you what Division J was in. That was before I knew they didn't' censor the letters. But now you can tell what outfits you're in. I got a good laugh out of that. I'll bet you're still wondering. I hope I have straightened you out. If you can make any debts in my name go ahead, then when they try to collect tell them to see me I'm in Korea, "ha Ha!" I should have been here when J. bought the refrigerator. I think we're setting pretty close to the center of Korea now. We took over for the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines. You might be able to see where they were on a map. I'm just going through your May 12 letter & writing things down as I run into them. About the Surface boy. He was probably like me a million different addresses before he gets to his outfit. Let me know what Co he is in & I'll write right away. Who is this Mary Thomas. It must be Kate's sister. She must be a hell of a lot different from Kate, & how did Kate jim the works (?) Well it's going to get dark pretty soon so I had better get my equipment together. It don't pay to leave stuff laying here, there & everywhere because as sure as you do, you'll pull out in the middle of the night. Like last night they said we might pull off on an attack at 5 this morning or go on a Co. patrol. As it turned out we did neither & I was glad. I'm glad Pudge is getting Dale W. tonsils out. I've thought all along that is what he needs. He'll probably be just like CD grow like a weed. Tell Pudge to be careful with Toadie because polio can sure take a hold of a kid quick when they get run down that way. Well I had better ring off here for this time. I'll write Deanie a few lines. Wasn't that a sight about Roy H. Love Clate

**May 28 – Noon – Dear Folks, Just a line to let you know I'm ok. I guess you can see by the papers what has been going on. It's been pretty rough but I got through OK. I'll write later & tell you more. I got your & Bet's letters written May 18<sup>th</sup> one from Max wrote 20<sup>th</sup>. I'm 20 miles north of Churchkon I've got to go eat chow now so maybe this letter will be enough now. Things are quieting down but don't worry if you don't here from me for a day or so because we're on the move. Love, Clate**

**May 31 – 6:30 p.m – Dear Folks, Just a line to let you know I'm ok. It has rained almost continually, the last few days. It quiet at noon today & the sun popped out as I dried things off. That's the way it does. It rains for about 24 hrs straight & then the sun will pop out in a 1/2 hr or be just as pretty as it can be. We have been on the move continually since about the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. We're sitting up here on top of a mountain right now just north of Hevarchon. I don't know whether it's big enough to be on a map or not. By the way I got your box on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We ate the candy right away but this afternoon was the 1<sup>st</sup> chance I had to open my peanut butter. When we pulled out on this attack we left our packs behind. All we carried was a poncho. We got the packs back about the 26<sup>th</sup> but somebody else had took mine. We left them behind on a hike the next day & I lost my pack again, so I have had about 3 different packs the last 10 or 12 days. We're supposed to set here a couple days so I'll try to write more later. I've got 3 or 4 letters lately but I'm going to have to check the dates & I havnt got time right now as it looks like rain & I have got to prepare for night. I think I told bet but I'll tell you again not to worry if you don't here from me for several days. This damn rain really fouls things up. When youre on the move every day & it rains all the time its dam near impossible to write. Tell Max & the rest so they wont be expecting to here form me. This rainy season is supposed to last about six weeks. I'll write as often as I can & you keep sending clippings out of the paper on the war & so forth. I never have found time to read those clippings that were in the box. How did the race come out. PS I got a raise in pay or did you notice "HA" Love, Clate**

**June 12 – 6:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, Well its been quite a spell since I've wrote but I can't remember just when it was. I wrote you once or twice around the 28<sup>th</sup> I think it was. I've got about 2 letters form you & 2 from Bet & Max & I also heard from the Surface boy. He's in a Hq Co. He sure was lucky. I think I told you I got your box by airmail. It sure went good. When you send another make sure it is taped up a little better. The ends were tore loose but the rest was in good shape. We've been going so hard the last 16 days I havn't hardly had a chance to read my mail. When you're on the move you just don't have time to think hardly. So if you have asked anything that I don't tell you just ask me in the next letter. We were returned yesterday morning by the 17<sup>th</sup> & the 31<sup>st</sup>is back in Div reserve. I imagine will be back here about 5 days. We have just layed arround about all day today. Everybody was so tired out we could hardly get arround. They gave us a big turkey dinner today that sure went good. I always said the worst thing in a war is when it rains all day & is still raining that night with no place to go. That just about right. I think it has rained about 10 out of those 16 days & when you have nothing but a poncho it gets pretty rough before morning. We lost our Co. commander arround the 7<sup>th</sup>. It sure was a blow. He was a real guy. You would never know he was an officer. He was always right up front when the going got tough. We got a 1<sup>st</sup> John now that's surely not been here long. He seems to be ok but he's got a lot to learn. It don't take but one mistake over here & that's it. I'm not on the bazooka anymore. I'm just in a rifle squad. They put the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> squads together & made a squad out of it. They are supposed to get in some more replacements soon so I expect I'll be going back to the 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chinese sure took a loss on the last deal. I don't see how they take it. The roads are lined with trucks & equipment that the airforce has got. It looks like the ware is depending on how long Russia is willing to supply China. China has the men all right but if Russia stops the supplies she's done for. These Goods are lower than**

animals. I know we took one guy prisoner one day & tried to take him back & he just set his feet like a mule. We couldn't even drag him. We finally gave him a kick in the ass & turned him loose. Well I've got a lot of letters to write if we set here long so I'd best sign off & start on another one. I even did write Max S. I started one June 1 & never got it finished yet. Love Clate

June 14 – 7 p.m. – Dear Folks, I've got a little time before dark so I'll write a line or two. I wrote you a letter when we first got back here & I wrote a letter to Max & Buck & Max S. but I just got theirs mailed this evening because I couldn't find any envelopes. We're still sitting here in the same place. This made the 4<sup>th</sup> day, I imagine we'll be here for another 2 or 3 days before we go back up but you never know (on side of paper – Give Dale W & Deanie something for their birthday & take it out of my money). Before I forget it I wish you would subscribe for the Quick magazine for me. I get tired of sitting here in the dark all of the time. I get hold of a Stars & Stripes about 3 weeks old but that's about all the news I get. Another thing whenever you send me another small sharp pointed pair of scissors, just cheap ones for my toe nails for they'll probably be lost after I use them once anyhow. Well it's trying to rain so I had better sign off here. They havnt had a mail call yet so I don't know whether I've heard from anybody or not. I havnt heard from Pudge for a long time. Well it's trying to get me wet so I've got to stop. Love, Clate 6:30 p.m.

June 15 – I never did find an envelope to mail this letter so will try to ad a little to it. Well it's 3 o'clock the 17<sup>th</sup> now. I started that last and came another down pour. It's Sunday over here & we havn't done much today. It is pretty hot & sticky & I suppose it will rain tonite. We're still sitting here. I'm sure surprised but I'm sure not going to complain. It's just like heaven back here. They even have a shower set up & we have a movie about every other nite. I've only went to one & I fell asleep in the middle of it so I haven't gone to anymore. I've been getting about 10 hrs asleep every nite back here. I wake up as still as a board, a fellow falls asleep & never makes a move all night. Well I'm having a hard time finding something to write about, one reason I havn't mailed this letter I can't get hold of an envelope. Everybody is out & can't get any through supply. I haven't got any mail for about a week now. I don't know whether its just not getting here or you're slowing up. Seems like I have to write a letter to get one. You had better put an envelope & a sheet of paper in each letter for awhile & maybe I can write a little more regular as long as we're back like this. Somebody gets a rumor going about every day on the war. This guy's going home on rotation & those close up on the list sure sweat blood. I never have got it straight just how it works. They take about 2 Sgts, 2 Cpls & about 4 Pfc's per month out of each co. There are still a lot of the old guys that landed with the 7<sup>th</sup> at Inchon last sept. So its hard to tell how long a guy will have to stay even after his 6 months are up. They're going to have to ship a lot more men over here before they can get the ball rolling full swing. They havn't even got us in any replacements yet, after this last deal. I've got more hopes of the war ending & getting out of here before winter than getting out of here on rotation. It's going to be a long rough son of a bitch if we have to push the gooks back across the Yale ? Korea is a lot wider up north and it will take a lot more troops to do the job. Well Ive got to hunt an envelope somewhere before I mail this letter so I'll close here. Love, Clate

June 22 – 3 p.m. – Dear Deanie, I haven't got much to write about but I'll try to write a little as I think I owe you a letter. We have moved a couple times since I wrote home last. Then I wrote last we were back in reserve. We were in reserve for a week & then we moved back upon line. We were up there 3 days & then the 24<sup>th</sup> Div relieved us & we are back in reserve again. We are almost back to the 38<sup>th</sup> P. this time. They brought the whole Div back so we may be here for awhile. I hope so anyhow. When we moved upon line we started up this mountain & the guide got lost & took us up the wrong one. We had to come back down nearly to the bottom & go up a different draw to get up to where we were supposed to go. We had started up that morning at 9:30 & when we finally got up to where we were supposed to go it was 5:00 that

evening & even then they came straggling in until about 7:00 o'clock. That was just about the roughest climb I ever had. From where we were you could see a piece of the Hwachon Reservoir about a 1 ½ mile over last. We came back on trucks & got in here about dark last night. We have just been laying around all day. I took a shower & got clean clothes and awhile ago, as we started up that mountain there was a house setting beside this mountain stream. Down along this stream there was a waterpowered feed grinder. I'll try to draw a picture of how it worked. Waterfall down to hollow in log to peg through log – hollowed out rock. The water fills the log & the weight tips the log up about 4', spills the water out & the log drops back down & mashes up the grain in the hollowed out track. The rock holds about 1 gallon of grain. You should try to work out something to run your lawn mower. Well that's about all I can think of right now. I was sure sorry to hear about Blackie. Was any of her kittens black. How many kittens do you have by now & how many pigs did you finally end up with. I'm sorry I couldn't send you & Dale something for your birthdays but I told Mom to give you some money & you can get what you want. Well I guess that's about all I can think of. Love Clates PS Tell Mom I got a letter from P & 1 from Bet & the one from her telling about Blackie. I havnt got anymore for about 3 or 4 nites. Write me soon & let me know how it feels to be 13.

July 1 – on American Red Cross paper – 8:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, I wrote a letter to Bet last night but after I mailed it I happened to think she might be on vacation & it would be a good while before anyone would hear form me, so I'll try to write a few lines. I got a letter form bet today wrote the 23 and one from H. Morgan & one from May S. written the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. I don't know what happened to that letter. Harold said he only had a little more time to pull on Hawaii and he would be reassigned. He said he hoped so, damn he don't realize how good he has it, but I guess he'll always have that bed to sleep in. It has been awfully hot & dry here all week. We have been working on bunkers upon top of the mountain. It's called the Kansas line. It's offensive position, set up to stop the Chinks cold in cause they start another push. It is supposed to run from the west coast up diagonal & join on to Huchon Reservoir. I don't know how the other side runs. there sure a lot of rumors over the war ending. I sure hope they can get together. They have either got to now or go all out one. It could go on forever the way it is now if they don't get some more troops over here & start knocking hell out of them somewhere else. Well I guess that's about all I got for right now. They have a show about every night at Bn. That's down the road about a half mile so I think I'll go tonite. Love, Clate. P.S. I can't figure out what has got into Ray. I suppose he just got so hard up and he started taking a little her e7 there until he got in to deep. It sounds like the "Cat" is giving you a good deal of trouble. Has J. got it over hauled now. It should be in pretty good shape now. How is the car & truck running. Are they having any races at Jungle Park this year. How is J & Mary Thomas getting along. You haven't mentioned her lately. How is Nig getting along on his house. He surely has had to get out by now. You never did say how big he was building it. I'm getting along fine. I'm getting pretty good chow back here. I think it was Bet that asked me if I had lost any weight. I haven't lost much but I sure as hell ain't getting' fat either. Well that's about all I got. I'll try to write a little oftener but it's so hot during the day & eve that it's hard to get your thoughts together.

July 4 --4 p.m. (no envelope) – Dear Folks, I've got about an hr before chow so I'll try to write a line or two. I got Max's box today but the cake was molded. The rest of the stuff was ok. We came down off the hill at noon today. We had been up there two nites so we could get finished. We're leaving this place tomorrow morning so I thought I had better write a line or two in case I don't have another chance for a few dyas, I don't think we'l be going back upon line for awhile yet but you never know. I guess they're holding some kind of peace talk tomorrow over around Kaesong maybe they'll at least get a cease fire for a few days. We got seven cans of beer, and two coca colas, today when we got back. They taste mighty good even if they are hot as piss. You

soon get used to that even the water is always hot, unless you find a spring somewhere in the mountains. I got a letter from Max wrote the 25<sup>th</sup> & one from Bet 23<sup>rd</sup>. A lot of guys are going home on rotation now, but there still seems to be a lot of old men left over here. I've only got one old man left in my squad. I don't think I ever told you any of their names – Chilton is from Ky. He has been over here 7 mos. He is really the best old boy in the squad. He has carried an AR for the last five mos & it has really whipped him. He weighed about 200 when he came over & it will hustle him to weigh as much as me now. Williamson is from Ky too. Hes just a little guy. He came over about the same time as me. Dolan is from Texas I think. He's been over here about 3 weeks longer than me. Allan is a Nigger from Georgia. He came over may 1<sup>st</sup>. You never seen a blacker one, or lazier. Him & Dolan are both enlisted Reserves. The rest of us are draftees. Hall is form Illinois, King is from Maine, Lybarger is a farmer from Nebraska & then we got in a new man by the name of Acanfora. He told me where he was from but I've forgot. These last four haven't been here long. Since that last push, about June 20 is when they joined to Co. Well that's about all I can think of but I had to fill up this letter with something. Love Clate – PS Did Dale W ever get his tonsils out & how did he get along.

No date no envelope, but would likely go about here – Hello Deanie, I'll try to write you a few lines before it gets dark. I'm setting here on the side of this mt. where if I slipped, I would go scootin on my hind end for about 200' right straight down. These mts. are really buggers. There is one across the river down below that goes right straight up for about 1000 ft. That don't seem so high but when I was on that 700 footer it was pretty hard to tell a jeep from a truck. All of these mts are covered with scrub pine from the size of your finger on up to about 4". About all of the mts. Have burned off & it has killed a lot of them. There are foxholes on top of every mt. I've been on but when we move in on one they never seem to be in the right place. I'm glad you got you a watch. Be sure & take good care of it. Your grades were pretty good this time. I knew you could do better if you wanted to. You won't get any milk check if you have many more kittens. It'll take all the cows give to feed them. This river down below us here is about the size of Sugar Creek. It's the Naktonguyany River or something like that. Ain't that a name. Refugees have been coming down it all day today. They're running from the Chinks. It's always a bad sign when you see them because you know the Gooks aren't far behind. Well it's a quarter to nine but it isn't quite dark yet. What time does it get dark there. I think we're on daylight saving time. That's so us GIs have time to work in our garden's after work. That's all for now, Love Clate. Write me soon.

July 9 -- 8:30 p.m. – Dear Folks, Just a few lines before it gets dark. It started raining just after we came down off the hill, not hard but it's probably a 24 hr one. It's been trying to rain for the last two days. We moved the day I said we would; it rained like hell while we were moving but after we got soaked it quit. We moved about 5 mile back & we're working on reserve positions. It's sure a hell of a climb it takes us exactly an hr to climb it. I've built so many log bunkers lately I think I'll start building log cabins for a living. I had sixteen laborers today besides the rest of the squad. We really build some honeys. They give us all the sand bags we want to use so we can practically make them like log cabins. These laborers are just civilian men the army uses for such purposes. Theyre from 16 to 60 but a lot of them will really work. They seldom have any chow to eat at noon & if they do its just a ball of rice. We give them our corn beef has & noodles out of our C-rations & always take a lot of cigarettes with us. I found out it pays cause you can get twice the work out of them. I suppose you knew Jack Benny was over here in Korea. We got to go to his show yesterday eve. It sure was good. They kept everybody laughing for 2 solid hrs. Besides him there was Ero Flynn, Marjorie Reynolds, Frankie the guitar player on Phil Harris' program and 3 others. I got a letter from Bob B & BF about 2 or 3 days ago. I wrote Bob yesterday & I got your letter nite before last. I don't know why you haven't heard

form me very often I've wrote at least one letter a week & sometimes 2 or 3 except those 2 or 3 weeks. Well it's getting pretty dark so I had better sign off. By the way I see on the bulletin board I made Cpl, so I'll get around \$130 now when & if they pay me again. I think I told you they skipped me last mo. Well I'll write again in a day or 2. Tell Pudge I'll try to get her a letter wrote too. Love Clate P.S. Tell Deanie he's slackin up on writing.

July 12 – 8:00 – Dear Folks, I just got your letter wrote July 4<sup>th</sup>. It was sure a blow about Bob Steele. I got a letter from Jr. Surface today saying his folks hadn't hear from him in 7 weeks, so I knew right then that he had been h it or something. I wrote him about a month or more ago & I never heard from him. I had been wondering why but never thought about him getting it. He might be a prisoner by them stating him missing in action & if they don't get a notice soon that he is actually dead he has got a good chance of being prisoner. Sometimes they treat a POW pretty good, so as long as he is listed as missing in action, there is a good chance he is alive. They will know within a month if he is dead or not. This damned war never don't look too good to me. The latest I heard it sounded like the UN just the same as asking for an unconditional surrender, so tell everybody not to get to worried & go ahead & pray for the damn war to go on so they can make their killing. Well were still here the same place building bunkers. That mt gets a little higher each morning but it's still better than the front lines. Well I haven't much else to write about. I had intended writing Max tonite but I guess I'll try tomorrow nite, since I got your letter. The evenings don't last long when you eat at six & then have to shave everyday; ain't that hell. It's bad as basic training over here when you're not on line. That's all I can think of for now. Love Clate. PS Write soon & let me know anything you know on Bob Steele.

July 20 -- noon – Dear Folks, I got your letter yesterday eve. It was only six days coming. That s the quickest I ever got one you talk about rain. It started raining yesterday about noon, it drizzles on us all afternoon at that inspection & by 4 o'clock it was a regular down pour. It rained all night & this morning. It has stopped for a little while now, but it looks like it will cut loose any minute. It just comes right straight down & it has just about washed us away. It's a funny thing all the time I have been over here I haven't seen a bit of lightning or heard any thunder. It kind of looks like we're in for that rainy season. By the way we're still here in the same place. We may stay here awhile longer because I understand we have to string barbed wire in front of those positions. That is going to be a hell of a job on this mountain side & worse if it rains every day. I got a letter from Don Ewbank yesterday too. He's in London seems to have a good deal there. I still can't quite understand Bob Steel. If they know he's dead I believe his folks would have heard by now. I don't see how he could have been captured either hardly unless his whole platoon was on a patrol or something, but he may be a POW yet. Well I haven't hard any more on the war the last few days. That's the main talk around here. There will sure be a bunch of happy guys if it does end, but they'll be a sorry bunch if it don't because the shit will really hit the fan then. Well I can't think of much else to write about. I think I asked some of you how Dale W came out with his tonsils & how is Toady. I can't think of anything I really need over here unless it would be a pocket knife. Got a big heavy one with screw drivers & punches etc on it. Also a chain of some kind to tie onto my belt so I won't loose it. There just isn't much a guy needs over here. I've spent exactly \$3.50 since I've been over her e& that was for beer so you see if a man spent his life over here he could be a rich man when he died, but I think I just as soon die poor. By the way I don't need any razor blades right now. I've been getting some Gillette blades in the PX rations. If I see I'm going to run out I'll let you know & you can put some in your letters. That is a pretty good way to send them. Well that's all I can think of now. Love, Clate PS If it keeps up raining my mail may slack up some but I'll write as often as I can.

July 30 -- 7 p.m. – Dear Folks – Well, I think I owe about everybody a letter now. I got 4 letters the other night at once. One was from B. Buser. The other 3 were from you, Bet & Max. I had got one from Pudge a day or two before. I got a birthday card from Bet yesterday. We have moved 3 times since I wrote last. We were upon a mountain about 3 days & nites & then we came back down & are setting by the river about 10 mile north Chunchon. We got 45 cans if beer apiece the day before we moved down off the mt. They give us 5 cans per day. It cost us \$5.25 a piece. Nobody had any money in our platoon so our platoon lead (Lt. McCary) paid for it. It cost him \$215 for one platoon. We pay him back pay day. That's tomorrow. I hope I get paid. I can't figure out just what is going on. Everybody thought we were going back up on line but we're just going along like we were. There is a rumor that the Chinese Nat. have invaded China from Formosa. I don't know for sure yet though. You can hear anything. If it is so it sure is going to change the complexion of things. Just how I wouldn't know though. It could be good or bad. Well it's coming one lull of a storm so I had better sign off. I'll try to write again soon. Love, Clate

Aug 6 – 8:30 – Dear Folks, Its about dark so this will have to be a short letter. I just wanted you to know I got your box ok. It was sure good. I also got Maxs cake on my birthday. That was the best cake I ever ate in my life. I have been getting several birthday cards along too. Johnnie & Nina Jean & Bill & June sent one & this eve I got one from Fay. She had a letter in with it. She said she had written me once back in May but I don't remember it now. I probably got it though. Well we go back up on line for sure the 8<sup>th</sup>. We relieve the 5<sup>th</sup> Reg of the 24<sup>th</sup> Div. Col. McCaffrey gave us a big speech this morning. He said we are just to set there & hold that ground. We'll be on Hill 1064 (That 1064 stands for meters. I always though t it was ft but its not. I think a meter is 39"). I think I have got a letter from about everybody so I've got a lot of writing to do. You had better tell everybody who writes me to put in an envelope & some paper because it seems like they just never cn get hold of any for us. Then to they'll stick together in a few days if you don't use them. It sure has been hot here for last few days. It also rains about every nite. The insects nearly eat a guy up too. If you have anything sweet on your tray the bees nearly eat it up before you can. That's all for now. PS Tell Deanie I'll try to write him in a few days. Love, Clate

August 14 1951 – this one is VERY faded, most of the rest are very easily read – Cpl. Charles C. Morgan Co A 31<sup>st</sup> Inf Regt aPO c/o – San Francisco, Calif – to John w. Morgan, RR 3 Crawfordsville, Indiana – (hand dated Aug 9, 8:30 p.m.) – Dear Folks, Well here I am setting on top of a mt. again. We cam up yesterday morning. We got up at 3 o'clock, it was pouring down rain then & it didn't stop till about noon after we got up here. It rained off & on all afternoon & last night it really poured. It cam thru our tent & we had to set up the rest of the night while we weren't on guard. It has been cloudy all day but hasn't rained anymore. The 5<sup>th</sup> Reg had set up here for 47 days & they had built bunkers & strung barbed wire all around. This hill is 900 & some so I feel pretty safe up here. I got your box tonite with the knife. That is just exactly what I wanted. The candy was all melted together but none of it went to waste. We get two hot meals a day up here so I guess we wont starve. I hope we set up here as long as the 5<sup>th</sup> did, but if this peace treaty has broke down completely like it looks like it has I expect something will happen right soon. Aug 10 – 2 o'clock –It got to dark last night so I thought I would finish this letter in the morning but it rained all morning so I am just now starting on it again. If I hadn't got these envelopes I would have had to waited until I got a letter with one in it before I could write. So don't forget to tell everyone who writes to put an envelope & paper in the letter. You or somebody asked me if the boys get many boxes. Somebody in the platoon gets one about everyday. Well it wont be long until Deanie starts back to school. I suppose he's dreading it already. Going to school sure is a rough life aint it Deanie. You should be over here in Korea

where there are no schools but of course there isn't any candy or picture shows & you eat riceballs (3 meals a day but maybe that is better than going to school). I have to study all day. What do you think? Write me soon & let me know how everything is going. Well that's all I can think of right now so I had better sign off & try to write Max. Love, Clayt

Aug 14 – 7:00 p.m. – Dear Bet & Larry, I got your letter mailed Aug 2, but didn't get it until the 12<sup>th</sup>. So you are probably looking for an answer a lot sooner than you will get it. Yours was the first letter I got for several days. I think all the roads are washed out so it just isn't getting up here to us. It has rained cats & Dogs every day we have been up here. Last night just as they got chow up here it cut loose & simply poured. Believe me you had to eat like hell to keep your tray from running over. It wasn't an hour later though the sun came out and hasn't rained anymore & today has been pretty nice. I hope this damned rain will stop pretty soon. These pictures are a couple I managed to get off one of the guys. The guy that went on R&R was supposed to get several sets made but he said that's all they could make. I think he just ran out of money. Me & Chilton bought a camera & we sent by another guy to get some film so I may send some pictures home yet if we set here on this hill long enough. You can give these to the folks as I thought as I thought that I had better get them sent before the rain ruins them. Well it looks like the peace talks have about blowed up. Everybody should be happy again now that prices will stay up for awhile. Bob Buser writes me & tells me about the draft dodgers around New Market. I've got two letters from him in 1 ½ mo. Or so. He has even invited me to his house for a big party when I get back. I took him up but it may be a long time yet if they don't get this rotation going better than it has been. There are still about 16 of the Indian ? Indiana? Different word? Guys in the CO. yet. Them guys are about ready to blow their top. That's about all I've got for now, have been back on the next mountain digging more holes today. That's so if the Gook's knock us off this one we'll have some place to go. Well, let me know anything you hear on Bob Steele. PS I'll put your letter back in to stiffen this letter & maybe the pictures wont get bent so bad. Love, Clate

Aug 19 – 3 p.m. – Dear Folks, Just got a letter from you & one from Max with some pictures of the house & barn. They sure were good. The old place must really shine now. She also sent a picture of Russ' midget. I got your letter wrote the 6<sup>th</sup> to a couple days ago a funny thing I had got a letter several days back from the Surface boy & I was looking at it again a couple of days ago. He was back in reserve. He said eh had been on Hill 1073. Well it so happens that's where we are now. This morning when we got our mail Lt. McCary our platoon leader said he may be going home on an emergency furlough soon as his father was expected to die at any time. Well it wasn't five minutes later until they called up Hewitt (He used to be with me in the 4<sup>th</sup> squad & is platoon Sgt. Now) & said that his father was about to die. So we may be without a platoon leader sgt. & everything here in a few days & yes, look at my return address I'm a Sgt now. J will probably shit when he hears that. He always said you had to kiss everybodys ass to get your stripes. Well they can't give you much shit over here as all the old men are going home on rotation & there just isn't anyone to take their place, anyhow they can have mine anytime they want them. They don't worry me a damn bit. It's still raining off & on but its been pretty nice today. It's awfully foggy here too. I think my pants are getting a little slack up here, too. They bring up breakfast but it isn't much & I can't hardly eat these darn c-rations anymore. So I have to live on supper now, but they do have pretty good chow then. We get PX rations up here too. That's a little candy & cigarettes. I've eat so many life savers since I've been over here I nearly choke on them, but you'll eat about anything. Well that's all I got room for this time. Love, Clate



Aug 22 – 2 p.m. – on American Red Cross paper – Dear Folks, I haven't heard from anybody for quite awhile but I've got a little time so will write anyway. I don't know what's the matter but it seems like the mail isn't coming through worth a damn. The last letter I got was wrote the 10<sup>th</sup>. Got a letter from Max with some pictures of the house & barn, said her & Buck was coming down to the Barker Reunion with Russ & Mid. I can't remember for sure but wasn't it supposed to be held at Nick's this year or am I wrong? How is Nick & how is his house coming along? If his got any ways near done I would like to have a picture of it. Speaking of Pictures, this one is of me but you can't tell it. I just happened to pick it up & thought I'd send it to you anyhow, it was taken right after that big inspection we had. We've been going back a little ways every day & digging more holes but got done yesterday & I have just been sitting around. They've got a Good barber up here today cutting everybodys hair. He don't do bad either. Well it looks like I'm going to spend the biggest part of the winter over here. They've got a new rotation deal no waltogether?. You get 4 points per mo. For every month you're on the front lines. That's called Class A time. You have to have 36 points to be eligible. So that means 9 months instead of 6. They gave everybody a paper with his points & approximate time he would leave. I've got 19 points & leave in January, so it looks like I might get a little chilly before I get out of here if this damn thing don't end. But don't worry about me, I guess I can take it if the other guys can. There are guys starting their 13 mo over here so I've got a long time to go before I get that bad off. Well that's about all I've got for right now so I'll write later when I've got more news. Love, Clate

Aug 28, 7:30 p.m. Dear Folks, It has been raining for the last 36 hrs & it is getting dark fast so this will have to be a short letter I got a letter from Bet & Bob Buser night before last & 1 from you last night. I also got the letter back I had wrote to Bob Steele (*note: Bob Steele was KIA in Korea on 19 May 1951*) June 17. Hadn't heard from anybody for about a week before I got Bet's letter. I did get a July 3- Quick. Havn't got much news besides the weather & that's always the same; rain. It clears up a little for a day or two & then it rains for day or two. It sure makes things miserable. It looks like the war is going to be a fight to the finish. I don't think the gooks wanted peace from the start. It sure was a frame up over these bombings. Well how did the reunion turn out. I had chicken the same day too so tell J I might have been eating a drumstick the same time he was. Did Chick ever get started. Tell him when he gets there to write me & I'll try to dorp him a few lines now & then. He'll probably be about as miserable as I am over here "HA" I went down the mt. & got clean clothes a hot shower, a few days ago. It sure felt good. A guy feels pretty crummy after he sweats for about 2 wks in the same clothes. Well it's getting pretty dark so I had better sign off. Tell Bet I'll try to write her in a few days but it seems like I always get a letter from you & her the same day. Love Clate

Sept 5 – Dear Folks, I got my box & letter from you yesterday. Boy was I glad to see that box. We had been eating cold C-rations for 5 days straight. We made a little push but have held up again. Don't know how long well be here. There weren't but one or two guys around when I got my box & I really waded into it. I think I enjoyed that box more than any other I ever got. I guess it was because I hadn't had anything decent to eat for so long. Well it looks like the rainy season is about over. It hasn't rained now for four days. We didn't have our sleeping bags or anything until last night & we nearly froze our asses off. Its awfully foggy of mornings here & don't clear off until about 10 o'clock. Now can stay pretty comfortable though during the day. Believe me fall is really in the air already. Well you asked me about the new rotation deal. I have already sent it to you or Bet one, I forget. But they have changed it so many times I don't think you can go by it for they'll probably have it changed again by the time you get this letter. I don't think I'll get out of here much before January though. Maybe the winter won't be quite as bad as last anyhow. Hell you get pretty well used to living like a rat anyhow. Ask J if you don't. Stay

on a hill 2 or 3 days & it begins to feel like home & you hate to leave there. Everyday you fix things ... (need to find rest of this letter)

?? on this date and first of letter is gone – do not think it goes with one above as it is on different paper. How is Pete doing on those hunts. That is one thing I've never been over here, is a coon track. I've seen a fox or two, one rabbit & one deer. They say there are a lot of deer & even a few bears up north father so I may see some of them before this damn war ends. It don't look like they are going to get anything done. I got payed \$130 this month. I still think they have short changed me. I figured it out the other day it figures \$152 but I got some partial pays on the way over here but I know damn well I never got that much. I'll find out about it when I get off of R&R. Love Clate PS Ask Deanie when he is going to drop me a line or two, I havn't heard from him in ages. I've got to write Max yet so had better sign off. I almost forgot tho. I could have gone to Japan to the 34<sup>th</sup> Regt. They were in the 24<sup>th</sup> Div last year & Got wiped out. They are reorganizing in Japan now. They need NCO's to train them. I thought on it a long time before I turned it down. They wouldn't tell you how soon you'd be coming back over here. In Japan you only get 1point per month also I figured if these peace talks work out they'll know within a mo, that might let me out of here but if they don't settle things the 34<sup>th</sup> will probably be coming over here in the dead of winter & I'll have lost all these extra points in Japan so I just as well stay here & sweat my time out.

?? on date –no real clue to when he'd have written it – starts on p3 –up a little more comfortable anyhow I've got plenty of company. Well it looks like everybody is on the draft dodgers asses back there, Bob Buser writes & tells me all about them. I get a big kick out of them. I hope the army gets them all before they can get into the Air Force. That's what I would have liked happen to Marvin Burkett. I guess he is just about to die in all that filth down there in Texas. I think he even has to sleep in tents too - HA -- p 4 – This letter was the first you had mentioned about having trouble with your side. I hope it gets OK. Don't be bullheaded & not go to a doctor when you feel tough. That's why so many people are in bad shape they just tough it out instead of doing something about it. Well I guess Chick is just about as bad off as he ever will be. He'll be so homesick he probably will be sicker than ever, so write him as often as you can even if he don't write to often & I'll try to get one to him now & then. Well that's about all I can think of now. Love Clate – thanks again for that box – everything was in good shape.

Sept 9, 12 o'clock – Dear Folks, Haven't got much to do right now so I'll try to write a letter or two. We got a bunch of PX rations in last night & it had a lot of stationery in it so I won't have to worry for a few days about paper & stationery. It was some extra stuff besides the usual candy & cigarets. There were four watches & I got one of those. We drew numbers out of the hat to see who got them & I was the first one. It's the same type as my old one. It cost \$11.50 a 17-jewel I think I told you I sold my old one for twenty dollars. I kind of hated to get rid of it but I figured it was about time for it to go on the bum again & I wouldn't have any way to send it home. I think I have wrote you & Bet since I heard from you so there isn't much news. It rained a little last night but it is pretty nice today. I believe the rainy season is about over because it had been cloudy as hell for the last two or 3 days & when it's that way it generally pours for a couple days, but this time it just sprinkled this time. I got two Quick magazines today. One Aug 8 & 13<sup>th</sup>. That makes 4 altogether I've got. It looks like they are going to come through really regular now. I heard from Harold M. & he's cooking now in a rest camp there in Hawaii. We are getting two hot meals a day up here now. After eating C-rations cold for 5 or 6 days everything tasted like a reunion dinner. Well it looks like I'll be going on R&R around the 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope so anyhow. I think I told you me & this boy Patterson were going together but he got hurt 3 or 4 days ago. He was taking up some booby traps down in front of our positions & he stepped right

on top of a trip flare. They think it broke a lot of bones in his foot. It knocked him about 10' down the hill. He's probably on his way to the states by now. I sure hated to see him go. I've inquired around & some of the boys said they called home from Japan. Don't look to strong but I am going to try it. I'll just have to wait until I get there. Well that's about all I can think of for now. Hope you're feeling better. Love, Clate

Sept 15 – 9 a.m. – Dear Folks, Guess what I'm doing now. I'm back here at the 31<sup>st</sup> rest camp training replacements. You remember when I first go here. I took a five day training before I went to my Co. Well that's the same thing now. I've been here 3 days & I've got about 4 more. The Co. Exec asked me if I wanted to come back here for about a week to help train some replacements. I first told him I didn't want to but my Pl. Ldr said he thought we were going to have a patrol the next day so I changed my mind. At least I'm going to eat good while I'm back here. We've got 117 all together now. I haven't seen anybody I know yet but I've seen a few guys from Breckinridge. I'm even sleeping on an army cot. The 1<sup>st</sup> time since I've been over here. I told you in the last letter I thought I was going on R&R about the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. I don't know if this will change it or not. I don't care if I don't go this time. Just as long as I can stay back here the better. It makes the time pass a lot faster. It will be the 1<sup>st</sup> part of Oct then before I go on R&R, but that will make Oct that much shorter. This month sure has gone fast. I don't know whether they'll send my mail back here or not. I doubt it if I only stay here a wk. That's about all the news I've got right now. I wanted to tell you mainly that I might not be going on R&R this time. It sure has been cool the last few nights. Love Clate

Sept 18 – 7 p.m. Dear Folks, Just got a letter from you & one from Bet too. They are sending my mail on back here now, had got one from Patterson & a Quick mag. He's in the hospital at Osaka. I guess his foot is pretty well mashed up. He said the doctors said he had a good chance of going to the states. Guess what – we got two big oil stoves for our tent here this evening. We just now got them up. I can just see these sons a bitches back here this winter burning about 50 gal of gas per day keeping these tents warm. They claim gas only costs 90 c per gal by the time they get it over here. I don't know how much longer I'll be back here. The 31<sup>st</sup> is being relieved by the 323<sup>rd</sup> now so as long as the 31<sup>st</sup> is in reserve I may stay here for awhile. You don't know from one day to the next though. I have about 4 or 5 hrs a day classes & I'm off the rest of the time. I've been going to a show ever night too. We shipped 117 replacements out in the last couple days & we got in 32 last night. I havn't seen a soul I knew yet but I've talked to a few guys that had trained at Breckinridge. One had been in Co. C 502<sup>nd</sup>. There is one guy here with me that was with me at Breckinridge. I've seen two others too. One came thru going on R&R & the other was going back to his Co. He had been in the hospital. They let another guy go on R&R in my place so I'll probably go whenever I go back to the Co. Things were a little rough for a few days around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, but it's cooled down a little & now that I'm back here I don't even think about war and I'm not going to as long as I'm back here. I sure am eating back here. They never know exactly how many they're going to feed & they generally always have 2nds. I thought the pictures were good. I figured Nick would put the same garage roof on. Well that's all I got for now. Don't worry about me I'm getting along fine. Love, Clate.

Sept 23, 9 a.m. – Dear Folks, I wrote Bet that I was going back to the co. yesterday. I got back up here yesterday eve. I got a letter from Bob B. yesterday & the box & a letter from you this morn. I still can't quite figure it out – you sounded like in the letter that the watch was supposed to be in the box. I'd read the letter then search the box again but still no watch, so now I've about decided that you sent it in a box by itself. I really could have got along without it now that I got a watch in the PX rations but there are already a 1/2 dozen guys wanting my old one. I could probably make 10 or \$15 off of it but I'll sell it for about \$15 as I only got \$8.50 invested because

I sold my old one for \$20. Everything in the box was in good shape. The crackers were crumbled up but I can always eat the peanut butter with a spoon & add the cracker crumbs. Those cookies & Candy sure are good. I just had breakfast & havnt ate all of them yet. Now for a little other news about that clipping. When I first came in the outfit I filled out a paper with name, address etc & also my hometown newspaper. I guess they sent that stuff to the paper form the Co here. I've seen other boys get clippings from home about promotions transfers etc. It was sure fouled up. I havn't been on a bazooka for almost 4 months. They surely looked in my records & that's what I was put down as when I first came over here. I think it was about June 1<sup>st</sup> when I went to a rifle squad. I was a squad leader til the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept & then I was ass pl sgt until I went back to train those replacements. I guess I'll be pl. Sgt in a few days as he is going home on rotation. We're sure getting in a gob of replacements.

Sept 24, 1 p.m – Dear Folks, This will be a might short letter, but I said I'd write as quick as I got my watch. I sure thought it was nice. I hope it didn't cost you to much. One guy thought it would cost at least \$35. It's a lot nicer than my old one but I still hated for you to spend the money for it. I just got through eating dinner. That peanut butte r& cheese was really the berries. I see in the paper that they are about to start the peace talks again. Maybe they'll get something done this time if they do. I don't know how much longer we're going to set here. Baker Co is moving back out tomorrow & Able Co except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon is moving back to Baker Co's positions. The guys are just now leaving on rotation so I guess I'm platoon Sgt now. Lt. McCary is going on RR the 27<sup>th</sup> so it looks like I'll be the "wheel" around here for a few days. Well that's about all the news for now. I wrote you & Chick yesterday so you may get this letter the same day. Thanks for the watch. I got \$15 for my other one. I could of got more but money isn't everything over here. Love, Clate – PS I'll keep you informed when I got on R&R. If they leave the 27<sup>th</sup> they should be back about the 6<sup>th</sup> of Oct. Then I'll leave the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sept 28 3 p.m – Dear Folks, It's been a few days since I've wrote anybody so I'd better get busy or you'll probably think something has happened I have wrote so often lately, I've just been setting around in the sun all day today & I just got back from getting a spoonful of ice cream. Just enough to drive a guy crazy. They shouldn't give a man any if that's all that they can give you. We get 6 cans of beer yesterday & a few odds & ends cookies & a few peanuts. It has been nice her everyday since I got back to the Co. It clouds up along towards evening but it hasn't rained so far. I guess it will wait until we move again & then rain. It rarely fails that way. There are rumors we are going in reserve before long but I'd hate to bet on it. The C.O. was up in a plane yesterday so it looks like we will be going the other way if anything. We're beginning to get in winter equipment now. We got our mountain type "fart sacks" yesterday. You can ask about anybody & they'll tell you that those "fart sacks" are the heart of the army in cold weather. They're about 2 times as warm as a wool type & it takes a lot of water to soak thru. I haven't drawn any of my other winter equipment yet. I think I'll wait til I see what we do. I don't want to carry anything any longer than necessary. By the way take a look at my address this time. I got the order on SFC. Yesterday. There were several guys got promoted this time. Well I haven't got much other news. The peace talks are on & off again so you can't tell just what they are going to do. Love, Clate. PS My watch is running just fine. Kind of glad you sent it now. The bunch left yesterday on R&R so I'll be leaving around the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> if nothing else happens.

October 9 – 3:30 p.m. – (on fancy Japanesy paper) – I've been trying to write ever since I got here but just couldn't find time for some reason or other. We got here on the 6<sup>th</sup> & have to be back at Camp Drake at 12 midnight the 11<sup>th</sup>. We are staying at Yokohoma they sent us to Tokyo but we couldn't find any place to stay so we came on over to Yoko. Its only about 1/2 hr ride in a

taxi. Just been seeing the town & eating mostly. Have been eating two steak dinners twice a day. I should get filled up before I go back. I have bought a few things for Deanie & the kids. I'll send it from the PX. I don't know how long it takes. I think I'll send it parcel post. You probably will have got the card by now when you read this. About calling home it takes from 12 to 36 hrs for a call to go thru. I decided not to try because we're out running around all day & to stay around a phone that long would take up to much time! It would be my luck for it to take 36 hrs too. Well had better sign off for now. I'll write when I get back to Korea & tell all the details. Love, Clate

Oct 15 – Noon – Dear Folks, Well I've finally got back to the Co. & am beginning to get settled down again. The Co was moving back up the day we got back & it was a couple days until we got back up here. We're sitting right on the Hwashon Reservoir. The POC? Were here & they pushed on across & all we're doing is sitting here. They took the ridge on the other side so we may go back again in a few days. You never can tell though anything can happen. I suppose you have got several pictures by now. I just had to send them mon the move & didn't right much if anything in some of those letters. Those big pictures are of a hill we were on back there the first part of Sept. The Co com took the pictures & he had me get them developed for him so I had a set made for myself. I'm not in any of those pictures for they were taken after we left the hill. We caught a lot of hell for 3 days that we were there. I'll tell the whole story when I get back. There's quite a story on that whole hill. The first time I was on it all the trees & grass were still there. The pictures of the tanks are just down at the bottom of the hill. They got knocked out & they drug them back to our lines. I don't know whether I told you or not but we have a new Co. Com. His picture is in the bunch. He's the little short haired Capt. Standing with another Capt. in one of those pictures. He's a hell of a nice Joe. I've also got a new Pl. Ldr. I don't know how he's going to be yet. He expects you to wait on him hand & foot but maybe (rest is not here)

No date on this one – just a quick hand-written note but since Lorene Morgan's birthday was Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, it must have been about this time – I made out a money order this morning but I may not get it back before I go to R&R so I'll send it right after I get back. You should get it in time for your birthday. Spend it for anything you want. NO matter what it is. Well I had better sign off as I want to get Max wrote yet.

30 Oct 10:30 – Dear folks, (a few days before he was killed) – It has been a good while since I have had a chance to write so I had better get a few lines wrote at least. We've sure been busy since we have moved. We had to build new positions & lay barbed wire. It was sure a long miserable ride. We were on the truck about 14 hrs all together. The damn thing broke down and it would only go in one gear. After we got here we had to walk 2 miles up here. It sure has been cold since we got here. It has froze ice about every night and there has been a big frost every nite. We're getting more winter clothing right away. I think some today. I haven't got but 2 letters since I've been up here. I imagine it will start coming thru in a day or two. Well that's all I've got time to write for now but maybe I'll have a chance in another day or two. Love, Clate