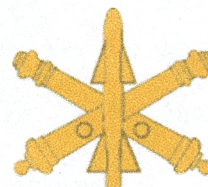
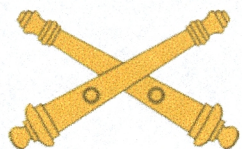


Artillery Officer Candidate School



Letters Home

1954-55

O/C John C. Fairbank

Class 62-55



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA



Friday
3 September 1954

Dear Folks,

This is about the first chance I have had to write. I just wrote Mary and I hate to write the same thing twice, but here goes -- Good trip to D.C. - Recognized lots of places. - Expressway in Wash. Blvd. Beautiful over D.C. Boarded A.A. plane. Same type. Flew first to Nashville. Recognized skyline Drive. - flew at 13,000 feet nearly 400 m.p.h. Then to Tulsa, Okla. Flew over Mississippi. From Tulsa to Okla. City. hour & 1/2 wait then took two-engine plane to Lawton and two-dollar cab to Ft. Sill. arrived about 7:30 Central Standard or 9:30 Eastern Daylight time. I was tired and had a splitting headache, as there is very much glare above the clouds which were about 10,000 feet to 15,000 ft.

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I am now just pulling details etc. until the 15th when our cycle begins. The Btry - (Company) is now "L" battery, but it will be "C" Btry. when I start I think. "L" Btry (Class 56) graduates Wednesday, 8 sep 59.

Don't write until after the 15th

It has been terribly hot down here. Just miserable - but not humid - believe it or not, my nose has stopped running. but my lips are always dry and thirsty.

I went to the Dentist today. - lost - one molar. Tooth # 15 lower left side - last one back - except wisdom. The filling was pushed against the nerve, and giving me trouble. But alas. don't fret. The olde

Faithful # 15 gave a wonderful showing. It fought back for about 45 minutes without giving a mil. It even out lasted

yours truly who needed to inhale oxygen to stay with the battle. - Well, enough of my troubles. you got enough of your own.

I'll write again when I get time

- Pidge



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA



Tuesday
7 September 54

Dear Every body -

How's tricks in Balto? There is no news yet, as zero week doesn't start until the 13th. I haven't been doing anything constructive. Just sitting around. I went to the dentist today. - Just a couple of small fillings, and I finish up there tomorrow.

I will be glad when we start doing some thing. You know me. Discontent when there is nothing to do, and, lazy when there is, so who can win with me around?

By getting here early, I have gotten a right fair look around, and I have gotten to see how things go. Well! -- No Comment. But you know how stubborn I am. The harder they try to make me quit, the harder I work to stay. So I'll see you in March.

speaking of seeing you, I don't know if I told you or not, but I should graduate on 8 March 55. I should get
(over)

about a 15 day leave at that time. However,
that is during lent. sorta knocks a few
plans in the head. Mary and I had
planned that if that happened, we would
get married after lent, but it would
probably ~~prove~~ prove very hard to pull
a leave at that time. It would be next
to impossible to turn down the leave after
graduation. So. — what now? Simple. (maybe
Rumor has it that we get 2 weeks off
at Xmas. — well? Get what I mean?

what are your views? I was very glad
to hear you offer your help before I left.
I told Mary, and she was very pleased. I
think it will improve her attitude. That was
her biggest gripe — that you ^{seemingly} took no interest
in our getting married. — I know you did,
even if it was negative.

Mary still has my sweater. I told
her she could wear it.

It is raining this evening, but it is
still hot. Well — so for now.

Pidge.



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA



o/c John C. Fairbank
Artillery Officer Candidate School
C Btry, Class 62, 3rd plt.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

wed. 15 Sep 54

Dear Folks,

Don't be too disappointed if I don't write too often. No wonder you never hear much talk about ocs. Bad memories are always forgotten and there are too many here to pinpoint any one. Lights-out is in a few minutes, so this will be short. We spent all this evening fixing up our bunks and lockers, etc. Also polishing the brass spigots in the latrine. -Some fun.- This week is all orientation and getting ready. Next week it really starts.

By the way - did I ask you how much money I have in the bank. Well, if I didn't, how much? I don't want to use it now, but I would like to know what I have to fall back on. I know what I got in Mr. Turners fair establishment. That is O.K. you can leave the book down there, as it is just as easy.

Well, the lights are out and I am in the
latrine so I can't think of much to
write about here. If you want to know
anything, just ask a question when you
write. Write something encouraging. This
place is something. -

Well so long for now.

Pidge



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA



Sunday . 19 September 54

Dear folks,

I am writing this after returning from church. I haven't missed mass & communion since my arrival. I doubt if I'll have another chance to write before next Sunday. We sure are rushed for time. Our schedule is full ~~til~~ til 11 at night. Your letters struck me as sorta a joke when you suggested I get to know some of the local populus. We can't even leave the Btry area. Of course time ~~flies~~ flies when you are real busy. For that I am thankful.

We have had two tests already. So far - so good. Two boys have dropped out already. Leaving 77. I am aiming for top-spot, but please don't preach to me in your letters. - Very provoking - And I don't want to become over confident. Just stick to the news. (local & international & sports) ^{etc.}

I received your "book" yesterday. It was really quite an endeavor reading it. I am now in the 3rd pl. - not the 1st. Please inform everyone.

Tell Dave to stick with that foot ball, and to stay in condition. Tell him to keep with those studies too. He may regret it later

if he doesn't. (Experience) 4:00 p.m. D

We have inspections 4 and 5 times a week.
and we can only wear our kahtki's and fatigues
once or twice. The cleaning bills are terrific.
at .70 per set of fatigues and/or kahtki's.

Of course I am now getting sergeant pay.

That will help.

If I get 2 weeks off at Xmas, I will
come home. Mary & I have decided to
wait until I graduate or later for the
completion of our plans. We might seek
a dispensation to get married in Lent.

I am a little rushed for time, so
I will close for now. I'll close now.

P. dge

P.S.

There are also a lot of laughs along with
the hard times - I'll tell you about them
some day.

J.C.F.

P.P.S. I have my first command position
this week. - Platoon Leader. Wish me luck!

26 September 54
Sunday

Dear Folks,

It is now 8:20 - 10:20 there or if you went back to God's time - 9:20. I haven't gone to church yet today. Mass is 9:30.

I am grabbing a few minutes to say hi.

I trust you got ^(your) ~~my~~ post card. ~~Please~~
~~don't send them, as I don't like~~ Never mind that, its O.K.

As you know, from what I have said and what you have heard - Time is precious, but Sunday morning isn't too bad. I managed to get by with only OCS area restriction this week. Some got Btry area restriction and/or a road march. This is determined by the amount of demerits. I can go to the P.X. and dayroom etc. I walked fire-guard from 3 to 5 a.m. this morning.

Today we are fixing up the barracks. We are painting the shower room & latrine floor. of course as Plt. leader, I am in charge of that mess.

Tell Dave to stick with those studies seriously. - And to take it easy with the parties. - or at the parties.

When I come home Xmas, I bring him some of those fatigue trousers he likes.

I had to get my self ^② a couple pair, as we have to change every 2 days. Boy! what laundry bills. It's a good thing I am getting E-5 (Sgt.) pay. That helps.

About packages - don't send any. The chow is good & I won't have ~~time~~ any place to keep any stuff that couldn't be consumed immediately.

The academic courses here so far is excellent. We studied mechanics this week. I picked up quite a few helpful hints that will add a wonderful supplement to my knowledge along that line. We started with engines and took the whole thing in order. Our work is mostly on trucks, but also. (Fran attached jeeps. I'll be able to really tear into the station wagon when I get home.

It is cloudy today, and not as hot as usual. The nights have been getting cool, so I guess summer is breaking. That just means more double-timming. Well - such is life.

P. Edge

P.S. I'll write next week or sooner.

J. C. F.

Sunday
3 Oct 54

Dear Folks,

It is now 8:00 a.m. I just came from breakfast - which I didn't eat. I haven't gone to church yet. The weather is nice today, as it was yesterday, but it rained Thursday and Friday. It was the first good rain since spring for this area. The sky out here is beautiful, especially before and during a storm. The Fort is in a sort of valley with mountains rising out of the plain on all sides. It isn't like the hills & valleys in Maryland. It is all just a plain, with small mounds rising from the plain. One of these mountains is M.B.-4. Every Saturday evening all those candidates who get 14 demerits or more for the week hike out to M.B.-4. and march (climb) to the top and return. (twice) ~~to~~ From 10 to 13 demerits entitles one to make the trip once. Last week I didn't have to go - 8 demerits. Last night I made the trip once (3 demerits). I'll let you know how I make out next week. Anywhere from 10 to 30 demerits is average for this part of the course. They are "gigs" for dust on floor, need shave and small things like
(over)

(2)

that. I have had to shave twice a day with a safety razor since I got here. Once in the morning about 5:00 a.m. and once before the evening "retreat" formation about 5:00 p.m.

We have started to work with the 105mm. howitzer. I keep thinking about John Wills, and how he would enjoy all this. We have been taught about all the types of ammo and various other things. We go on a road march, (convoy) Tuesday, with the candidates holding all positions from Battalion commander to driver and road marker. There are three phases. I am a driver of a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck, a road marker and an executive officer. Last week we performed maintenance on $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks. We did the actual work in the shops. You can imagine how I enjoyed that. Of course I got greasier and dirtier than any other "mechanic" in the Btry. I was surprised how much I did know about it. Also a few things I didn't know.

Please send me the scholastic football standings and things like that. Also, how is Dave doing in football and studies. How are all Mike's girl friends? Has Tim started chasing them yet?

(3)

What is new with Marty? He still get home every week? They don't give you time around here to think about having time off. This afternoon we'll be working and studying tonight. Get Dave & Mike & Marty to write sometime. The time seems to be going fast. I guess because they keep us busy. The Btry is starting to really function as a group now. When we are marching or double-timing to class, we ~~say~~ sing, and we sound pretty good. All in step and hep-huh'ing right along. I notice we attract pretty much attention about the post. The upper class graduates this week. (Tuesday) - class 57 - therefore we get a new set of "Redbirds" to harass us for four weeks. About 10 to 15 guys dropped out of our class yesterday. That brings the strength down to about 65 personnel. We have had one candidate drop back from a higher class. That is not uncommon for guys to drop back 4-8 or 12 weeks. The guys in the 3rd plt. all are pretty nice guys. My cubicle buddy (two/vehicle) was a Sgt. in the Airborne. He was in charge of a Battalion of South Korean Guerrillas operating from an island off North Korea. They went behind the Commie lines at night and

(over)

did what destruction they could. He is very interesting. But not bragful. There is also a guy that was a M/Sgt. and was stationed at Ft. Meade. The one we get the laughs out of is from New York. A real clown. Great with the imitations of the "red birds" (upperclassmen). He isn't to sure he is going to stay. He is the rich class mamma's boy. He might stick though.

It seems everyone around here certainly looks down on ROTC "2nd Johns." There are some here going to school. What stops. They couldn't make a good ~~pr~~ put-2. They use the same "break-rooms" as us, and they are friendly and always asking questions about how it is at OCS. They seem to envy us. For the training that is. and our neat appearance. Well, enough bragging for now. I have to go to church.

Love to all,

Pidge



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD



FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

Saturday - 6 Oct 54

Dear Folks,

Well, here's another Saturday. They are moving right along. I start my 8th week. Class 64 comes in on Monday. It makes me feel a little better to see other candidates who have a longer time to go than what I have. It's getting much rougher though. There are more and harder studies and less time. I'm sticking with it though. Up til yesterday I've stayed off mandatory study hall, which means a scholastic average about 30%. Also I've stayed off extra training except for one week, so my leadership and P.T. must be sufficient.

Hey ma, thanks for getting that list of people for the invites you got for us. If you think of anybody else, don't hesitate to let Mary know. The big day is only 4 months off. Any suggestions or comments? If you think of anything I should do in preparation, don't hesitate to write and tell me about it. I am going to do some research on furniture & quarters before I come home Xmas. Of course I haven't the slightest notion where I'll be stationed. So most of that planning will have to be last minute rush-plans.

How is Dave's knee? Tell him I know how he feels. I twisted my right knee doing P.T. and again today while out on a field problem -

②

and it is pretty stiff. It's nothing to worry about. - I'm just feeling sorry for myself. Did I tell you I got a can of candy from Aunt Ann? Well, I did. It sure was good too. I also got your cookies & Mary's candy.

We have a holiday Thursday - Armistice Day. But we have two big tests Friday - so you know ~~the~~ what is on the schedule for Thursday. We average 5 tests a week. I mean to tell you they are really throwing the stuff at us.

Tell John we have been doing the duties of an ExO and laying the Btry, = "Btry Adjust, Aiming point this inst." and ~~Ref.~~ No. 1 is laid, aiming point, aiming posts, deflection 2800, refer" etc. You know! the old lingo. You can explain it. I haven't the time or paper. Also the duties of the F.O. - "F.O.B. - Fire Mission. Shell H.E. B.P. Drop 500 A Right 200 W.A. (will adjust).

How is Tim doing in his History & Geography? He better get on the ball. The little snout-nose. Does Mike still have a string of females following him around every where he goes? If so - good - If not - why not? Say, what grade is he in now? 7th or 8th I forgot. - Say Hi to Tim, Marty & Bep. ☺

Take it easy old folks,
Pidge

P.S. I went to a 7:00 p.m. Mass
on the 1st

J.C.F.

saturday
9 Oct 54

P.S. I could use some stamps. They are hard to come by down here in this "prison"

J.C.F.

Dear Folks,

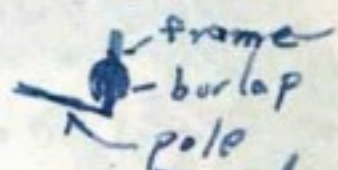
I am on C.Q. today (Charge of Quarters) that is how I get the chance to write on Saturday. Your letters have been coming very regularly and they are greatly appreciated. I was really surprised to hear about the monkey. You must be getting soft. Dave ought to get himself a hand-organ and stand out on a corner some where. He could pick up some spare change. How about sending a picture or two. Maybe you could train it to do dishwashing & ironing and housework. Then you could all take a rest. It was nice to hear that Tom asked about me. I'm surprised he remembered me - since I've been away over a month. I guess he'll have grown a foot by Xmas when I get home. Is it O.K. if I just come up to D.C. and maybe you can pick me up there. - Or if you can't - I'll take a train from there. We do get 15 days leave. It will cost up to \$190 to come home, so any Xmas present for me can be \$ or else something toward house-keeping.

This week we finished our work in the Dept. of Motors. I passed the final exam with flying colors. We are now having "Material" that covers almost anything used in the Army.

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From The .45 pistol to The 280 mm. Gun.
and also s.p. (self-propelled guns) We will
also start our communications courses soon. We
ride to most of our classes in buses or trucks.
This isn't the infantry - where they walk. We do
our share of double-timing and P.T. however.

Yesterday we completed our bayonet training
also. we went thru a course which consisted
of dummies (Not the instructors) and barbed wire-
trenches & walls etc. We really tore the course up.
The dummies are burlap sacks filled with straw
mounted on frames. They also have rifles (just poles)
like this.



The pole swings on a spring.
I broke one of the poles off and ripped one
of the sacks off a frame and ran down the
course with it on the end of my bayonet.
I also broke the stock of my rifle when I
did a vertick butt stroke on one of the dummies.
This really is a "guns-ho" outfit and you have to
"put-out" all the time.

The weather got cold the other day, but it is warm
today. I'll close now, as I have to hold a fire-guard
orientation -

Love to all,
Pidge

Saturday
16 Oct 54

Dear Folks,

I just wrote Dave a letter, and I forgot to tell him he could have that parka with the black & orange trim on the hood and sleeves; or did I give it to him before? If so - good. If he wants any of my other stuff or if Mike and Tim do - tell them to write and ask for it. I think Mike wanted that motor-bout.

The answer is yes. You lazy kid brothers of mine better get on the ball and write brother Pidge a line or two once in a while! I'll disown you if you don't. Also "Big John" better get his fat tail next to a fountain pen, and get the hint.

This week our barracks won the inspection in the battery. We would have won the Battalion too if they had held the Bn. inspection. If we had, we would have gotten a pass. As it is, ~~we have 2 bars we had~~ we were given 3 merits - to cancel 3 demerits. I had 13 - now 10. - Enough to send me up the hill only once. Each week the allowed amount drops. I sent a couple of pictures to Mary. Invite her up for dinner and tell her to bring them along.

The amount of my allotment remains at \$40. I get paid the other raise down here.

(over)

Oct. 16, '54

②

I'll need that extra money to come home Xmas. What would you all like — Oh never mind that we got two months before then. — Pardon the sloppy writing. It gets that way when you write fast. I have to take a lot of notes in class. Some classes are "classified" however, and we can not even have a paper or pencil on the desk.

It got colder the other day. Also windy like I've never seen before. There is a constant north wind. About 40 mph. it really blows across the plains. I liked the service men's section of the paper. Keep sending it.

I hear you got a little bit of Hurricane Hazel. How was it? Well, I have to close now. I'll write again if I get time and a Post card if I don't have time to write more.

Pidge

P.S. We start our 5th week today.

only 18 more to go. —

J.C.F.



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD



FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

Saturday
20 Oct 54

Dear Ma-Pa & Kids - also John,

This morning after inspection we had a terrific demonstration. It was much better than last weeks. They fired everything from the M1 rifle to the 280 mm Atomic Cannon. It was tremendous. John would have really enjoyed it. It all took place in about 2 hours. They started with the M1 then the BAR - 30 cal. MG - 50 cal. MG. The 75 & 85 & 105 recoilless rifle - The three sizes mortars. The multiple rocket launcher - M48 tank with 90 mm gun. - 75 mm pcc howitzer - 105 mm. 155 mm How & Gun also S.P. How. 8" How & 8" How S.P. The 240 mm. and then the 280 mm. John would really be surprised at the improvements since World War II. I think he should have stayed in the Army. It would have been an interesting life for him.

In our training now, we are going out on shoots and directing fire. We pick up a target (acting as forward observer) and then we adjust fire on the target. I will probably have to explain in further detail Xmas when I get home. We also do the duties of the VCO & HCO (Vertical & Horizontal Control Operators) in the (over)

FDC (Fire Direction Center) We also do duties as ExO. (Executive Officer) and on down to the gunner and cannoner. We have been having a little survey also & I could have gotten up and given the class - after my Ft. Belvoir school. In our field work, I was showing every one how to operate their transit and measure the angles.

The instruction is still coming thick and fast, and there isn't much time to study & write letters too. I'd like to write Grandma & thank her for the cookies which I got Thursday and which were very good. I might add - they were in a very good state of repair also. - Very few cracked. If I don't get to write, tell her thanks.

speaking of Grandma - again this year comes the question - what should we (mory & I) get her for Xmas? While I'm on the subject, also have about a few ideas for Fran & the kids.

I don't want to spend too much this Xmas for obvious reasons, but I still want to get something for every body. So any suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Do you think Dave will play in the City-Poly game? I hope he does. Tell him to keep trying, and to play hard. And also tell him to write me a letter pretty soon or he'll be sorry.

Say Hi to Mike & Tim & Tom also and tell Tom that that big airplane will bring me back
(over)

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in a few weeks. Does he still remember the airplane?
I'll bet he'll look lots bigger to me when I
get home.

You never did tell me what grade that dumb
Mike is in. Remember - I told you I forgot and
I asked you what grade he was in.

By the way, could you find out the words
to that old nursery rhyme about the goat
that ate the shirt and then caught up the
shirt and flagged the train. I heard the
OCS up Ft. Belvoir singing that while double-
timing, and I thought I would introduce it
down here.

Next week I am platoon sergeant. So I have
to keep these bums on the ball.

Today in in-ranks inspection I nearly got
picked for the sharpest candidate in the platoon
to compete in the Btry competition, but my
cubicle mate - Bob Lizaudo edged me out. He used
to be a Sgt in the Airborne. What lost it for
me was some lint which had blown into the
chamber of my rifle. Maybe I'll get it next
week. - who knows (who cares)

I didn't get a pass this week. - 8 Demerits,
but I did keep off of Extra training, which is
a help. (It just ran out of ink)

I am pulling CQ for a buddy right now. -
He got a pass. So that is how come I have
time to write.

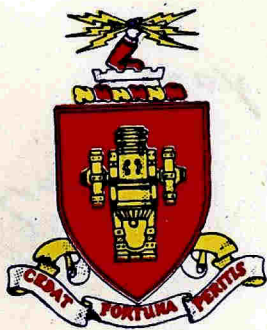
I like the clippings⁽⁴⁾ you have been sending. I was disgusted to hear about the Orioles trading Turley & Larsen for that darn old man - Woodling. They must be crazy.

That must have been a hell-of-a fire up in the olde-town last week. Its too bad it didn't burn out more of Baltimore. Then they could make some improvements.

The weather here is still nice and warm. Cool in the evenings, but real nice. It seems real strange - almost thanksgiving and still it isn't very cold. - of course I'm not complaining.

Well, news is nil. - So long for now,

P. Dye



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD



FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

Saturday
23 October 1954

Dear Folks,

Have the Hollomeners been around ringing the doorbells? What new tricks have they thought up - that I never thought of. Tell Dave to behave himself. I hope the monkey is well. I got a letter from you today. You said you didn't get a letter from me. I thought I wrote. Maybe I forgot to mail it or something and it got thrown out. Who knows?

As you know - we have set the date for March 12th we will make the final plans Xmas when I am home. - No! No! Fran - you don't have to wear tails. Happy now?

Fr. Ells said that we could have the nuptial Mass and flowers, but the reception should be subdued. Mary will probably be up to see about getting a list of people for invitations. If you get this before she comes up. - You might start the list. I will make up a list of people I would like to send announcements to.

I think that during Xmas Mary and I would like to get together with you two and also with me & Mrs. Turner to discuss things of
(over)

importance. Such as finances - furniture and other things. O.K. with you all. I'm sure you approve. I imagine you think it is a very good idea.

This week we start gunnery. It is supposed to be the most important part of the course. Also the roughest. I'm not going to let it get me though. Believe you me. I'm going to stick with it.

This week we have been studying radio-procedure, operation etc. - very interesting - also complicated. We also had classes on holding inspections. Not the OCS way, but the way an officer should when he is with a unit. Picked up a few hints there also.

The food is still good and I'm getting plenty of exercise. PT every day. We start playing ball, next week. I might be on the basketball team. If not that - the soccer team. That will take the place of the P.T. - what a relief.

I got my first full-pass this weekend. No extra training of any sort. I didn't go into town for several reasons. 1. Save money 2. Stay in barracks and study. - Also I had to write my folks and gal. I just got back from Confession and I'm going to hit the hay. I'm tired. I was up 'til 11 last night and got up 3:30 this morning to prepare for inspection.

Try to write more Memore
P. Lee



(3)



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA



Sunday 24 Oct 54

Hi Folks,

Today is a nice day. Clear and warm. Not hot, but just nice. I went to church, and then finished writing the "buddy reports" (student rating forms) for my platoon. This afternoon I'm going to get into my study assignments for this week. - Polish my shoes and boots, and get to bed early again tonight. I got 9 hours sleep last night. During the week, the average sleeping time is 5 1/2 to 6 hours.

I'm glad to hear that Dave is getting to play in the games. Tell him to keep at it, and to score a few touchdowns. Tell him to look for a lateral chance after he gets hit. Might gain a few extra yards. - But be careful not to fumble.

Say Pop - you finally broke out your pen and wrote a few lines. What happened? No night school class to teach. - Speaking of night school, are you teaching? ~~Are~~ How is Fr. Davish? My old foul-breathed friend. Good man though. - What else is new out Loyola?

Also, how are all the eastern girls? There's nothing new to write about, so I'll get back to my studies. ~~Peace~~

over

④

P.S. you can send a box of goodies if you want. - Small box. We have no place to hide it. I can't think of anything I need. I might want that extra Ike jacket later, but hold off for the present. I may wait ~~til~~ 'til Xmas. Speaking of Xmas - I don't know anything about when I'll be arriving at D.C., so don't worry about it. If it is an inconvenient time, I'll not ask you to drive over. well, I'll close for now.

No news. -

P. dyl

Friday 29 Oct 54

Dear Folks - John will's also,

I got your letter at noon today (Friday) The one you said you mailed Thursday morning. Pretty good service, I'd say. Just one day. I enjoyed all the clippings. Also include Mr. Peeps Diary when it is on the back of the Daily Diary. Don't send the Daily Diary unless you think it has some interesting things in it.

As for selling my car to that young coon - Nix. Nix & double Nix!

Hey Tim - I really enjoyed your letter. But you better not write if you are writting to me instead of studying your Geography. And as for that helmet - No. - Any way, you can't wear it without the helmet-liner that goes inside it. We used to have some around there some where, but I guess you and Mike broke them up.

Say John - I really was surprised that you broke down and wrote. Now why the H--- didn't you tell me the name & number of the 155 How. outfit you were in. Maybe some of these "old soldiers" around here would know you. As for the 240 mm. - It is now in two parts and can be set up in as little as one hour. Pretty Good, what say? You think that those SP 155 were nifty, you ought to see the new models out. They are really tremendous. They look like a turret off a ship - mounted on tracks. The whole turret revolves. ~~It~~

(2)

I'll send you a picture if I can get a hold of one. I may just send the page out of my notes.

They look like this. They look like they will tip over backwards. The motor is in the front.



Air cooled - horizontal pistons - Save the ^(notes) thing I send home. I'll want it. We are starting into gunnery now. We have covered all the weapons - maintenance - ammo - bore sighting - tearing down, etc. Also we have had courses in small arms. Very exact. We have to be able to tear break them all down and have the functioning and nomenclature, etc. They are really throwing lots of instruction into these 22 weeks.

I have to stop now - I'll write more later -
Pidge

P.S. you ought to see me lay a Battery! No it isn't dirty talk.

Sunday 31 Oct 54

Dear Folks,

I just read Tim's letter again. I sure get a kick out of it. The way he begins every sentence with "Oh Pidge" - Thanks a lot for writing Tim.

I got a Pass again this week. Just 7 Demerits. I don't think I'll get one next week though, because I got 4 yesterday for "rust" on my rifle. Incidentally, it definitely wasn't rust.

The upperclassman graduates Tuesday and they always give everybody a rough time the week before they leave.

I just came back ^③ from church. I think I'll be able to get to Mass tomorrow because there is a Mass at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow night and I will probably be able to make it.

Tambo got a write-up in the Oklahoma City paper, so he must have played a pretty good game yesterday. When this "hick-town" paper writes something ~~and~~ you know it must be something big. Usually it just covers local rubbish.

It has gotten rather cool out here now. You might know it would cool off just when we are starting to go out in the field more often. We will begin working with an actual Firing Battery soon. We have been working with radios lately also.

John Will's note - yesterday we went out in the field for a demonstration on a new means of transporting a firing battery. - By Helicopter. The demonstration was really big. Lots of Officers etc. They break a 105 mm How. into three sections.
1.- Trails & axel. 2. cradle & 3.- Tube. and a H-19 helicopter carries each section separately. They flew in a 105 How. and had it assembled and firing on a target in 19 minutes.
(over)

(9)

Did they ever have anything like that in Europe, John?
You bet they didn't! They are really improving
this army. The other morning we almost got
knocked out of our bunks by an "Forest John"
going off. They are guided missiles. They fire
them from the East Range - completely over the
post and they hit over on the West Range.
If you are quick, you might see one going
over.

Well, I guess that's all the chatter for
now. Everyone is counting the days 'til Xmas.
Me, I don't count days - useless. - they'll
pass just as fast not counting them.

Say Hi' to Marty ^{& BTP} - Dave - Mike - Tim,
Tom & Oscar. -

Love to all,

P. D. G.



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD



FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

Thursday 25 Nov 54

Thanks giving

Dear Folts,

Hows things home? Did Dave play in the City Poly game? I didn't get to send you a post card yesterday, so I thought I'd write you a letter.

I got your box of candies last night. They are very good. They sorta are like a present for the holiday.

We got some news yesterday of a big change. We were slated to make middle-class when we got back after Xmas. At the 13th or 14th week and make upperclass the 18th week. Our Btry is going to be an experimental class. We are going to make middle-class next week and make upperclass when we get back after Xmas. We will have 8 weeks of upperclass instead of 4. It will be rougher, but it will give us more experience and will make us better ~~the~~ officers. The new plan was met with varied reactions. Some like it while others don't. Personally I'm going to wait and see how things turn out.

Expenses for uniforms already are presenting themselves. I think I'm going to have to get a new pair of shoes sometime soon. I, myself, would just as leave use my old shoes, but it is sorta S.O.P. around here that upperclass men have new shoes.

(2)
P.M.

~~we~~ I just came from our Thanksgiving meal.
Boy! what a feed! The mess-hall was all decorated
and the food was tremendous. The officers all
brought their families, as did the candidates so
fortunate to have them down here.
I am having trouble making arrangements
about getting home Xmas. The cost is terrible.
The army has arrangements for a trip^(air) to
Newark, N.J. for \$145 round trip. I want to
the airport to see about round trip to D.C.
and they said \$165. I might take my time
and drive up with some of the boys. I don't
know what to do. I guess I'll figure something
out. I really have to come home because
there are lots of things I have to take care
of. These candies are really good!

I am sending along our Thanksgiving menu
to Mary. I guess she will bring it up and
show it to you. I was going to a football
game this afternoon, but I'm going to do some
studying instead.

I went to the movies last night and saw
"Last Time I saw Paris" In it they mentioned
"The wealthy Wills from Maryland" Tell John not
to miss that movie.

Did I tell you that I've gained 23 lbs. since my first week. Of course I had lost weight before that, but I'm still pretty healthy.

This morning some of the boys & myself went over to the museum on Post here. It is really very interesting. They have the original blockhouse or jailhouse preserved as it was.

They have the cell still intact where the famous Indian Geronimo spent his last days. They have Arty. pieces from several hundred years back.

They also have a display of civil war firearms.

I finally found one like the small one in my room. It is a SHARP CARBINE. Manuf. in Richmond Va. for the confederacy in 1863.

Very few were made due to the craftsmanship and materials needed. The one they have is complete and the breech assembly is complete.

Some of the local history around here is very interesting.

How is the weather back there? It is starting to turn cooler now. The sun still feels very warm during the day.

Its too bad I never saw Dave's monkey.

Did you ever get a picture of it? How's Dumb Mike? Has he given in and gone to Mass yet?

I sure get a big kick out of your description of the "cold war" with the 8th grade sister.

I can't believe Mike is in the 8th grade. If so, where will he go next year?

I'm dying to see ⁽⁴⁾ how much Tommy has grown. I'll bet he is really sprouting up there. Is he as devilish as ever? How is Tim doing with the piano. Tell him not to bang so hard! He ought to be able to really jazz it up by this time.

As for Dave, I'm not going to say a word about him until he gets his last finger bones around a writing stick & writes me a letter.

If he plays his cards right ~~that~~ ^{he} might ~~even~~ ^{be} able to talk me into the use of some thing of mine that is just sitting around now.

Well, I have to get to my studies. I'll write more later -

love,
P.idge



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD



FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

Sunday 5 Dec 54

Dear Folks,

I shouldn't be talking this time to write, because I have a lot of work to do, but I'm doing it anyway, because I haven't written for quite a while. You don't have to send me any post cards for a while, I have enough on hand. Thanks for the stamps.

This afternoon Mr. Jaynes - "Cisco" picked me up and we went for a ride. That is Jerry Jaynes' father. Jerry's 4 year old sister went along. We drove up to Mt. Scott. - A large mountain near here. We first went to his place - his place of business - Cisco's lounge & I had a bottle of beer. Then the ride. We also visited the place where they hold the Easter Pageant each year. We went out the game refuge, but didn't see any buffalo. - There are a ~~any~~ couple herds out there. We stopped at another and showed Nancy - the little girl - some monkeys. We then went back to town and he bought me steak dinner. He showed me a wonderful, very relaxing afternoon. I really
(over)

②

appreciate it, as I realize he didn't have to do it at all. I think it was wonderful of him. I guess he did it because I was such a good friend to his son.

Mary is sick again - maybe you hadn't heard. You might stop down & visit her. It is the same trouble again. She is going to be treated at the hospital for it sometime this week.

I know what you think of us getting married if Mary is still sick, but look at it this way. You know we won't be happy if we put it off.

And troubles are made much lighter if they are shared with someone. We are still going to get married even if we have to deny ourselves certain things. - I have no more to say on the matter.

I bought myself a pair of shoes yesterday. They are good shoes. Most of the candidates get them when they get into the upperclass phase. They are "Bostonians", they cost a little more than Tom McGan. I am also going to have to do some thinking about uniforms right ~~after~~ after Xmas, so if the Xmas Presents I get are checks, that's O.K. I want to get a new suit Xmas too.

I'll be getting home in a couple weeks so pardon the brevity of my letters. I'll go into more detail of my training then.

- love to all
Pidge



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA



Sunday 12 Dec 54

Dear Folks,

Well, Hello! I'm finally getting around to writing a letter. How's the tribe? I O.K. myself. We had our middle class inspection & also our party yesterday & last night. The party was some blowout. All the candidates had a great time as did the officers. ~~The~~ The officers had an even better time than the o/c's because they didn't have to pay for the booze. They sure drank their share. Each Plt. put on a little skit & of course it made fun of their tactical officer. Lots of laughs. Even the Colonel enjoyed himself and laughed at our pranks.

This time next week, I'll be heading home. I guess you'll have a tree after all this year - now that I'm going to be there, you'll have someone to trim it. Try & make me!

Tell Mike to keep practicing his skating, and to keep his ankles straight and relax the rest of his body especially his knees. Maybe he can get a job over Carlins helping making ice. That would help him and also save him some money.

(2)

Take it easy Fran. I don't let those naughty Eastern girls give you too much trouble. Remember you're not as young as you used to be.

We had some snow here early this morning. It has turned lots colder too. The winds just whistle across these plains & really cut into you. We are out in the field almost every day this week for one thing or another. Yes, your little Pidge should have nice rosy cheeks when he gets home. - Aren't I cute.!

Yesterday the Btry lost about 15 candidates. They will go back either 4 or 8 weeks.

News is scarce, so I'll close for now. Take it easy & save me a few cookies.

Love to all,
Pidge



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD



FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

Sunday 2 Jan 55

Dear Folks,

Naturally - I got back O.K. We pulled into Camp 3:00 p.m. yesterday. 32 hrs. from Harrisburg. We ran into nothing but clear skies and dry roads. Even in Okla - Kansas & Mo. So - no sweat. The other candidate chickened out and took the train back. I hit the sack at 8:00 p.m. last night and didn't get up until 8:00 a.m. this morning, so I'm fresh as a daisy this cheerful morn. The snow out here has been melting since it landed; so there is only a little bit left - drifted into piles. Most of the ground is bare of snow, but it is wet - yet.

There is no new news for now, so I'll get this off as soon as I can. I've got a lot of shaping up to do - so I'll write later.

Pidge



9 Jan 55
Sunday

Dear F. E. M. D. M. T. T. etc (S),

Have you got any organization in that mess yet? The Xmas mess I mean. From the sounds of things you do have a definite problem. I trust you can overcome that however.

The new system has come into effect here, and among the changes is my address:

Btry F Class 62 2nd plt

I am also now an upperclassman. - Complete with the red-tabs on my shoulders. The underclassmen have to salute me & call me sir. I'm now one of those hated creatures known as a "red-bird." With all this glory comes much more responsibility however, so we have to work just that much harder. It seems that you never "have it made" around here until they pin the bar on your shoulder, and that looks a long way off yet when really it is only 2 months.

The other day we went out on a bunker shoot. we were in a bunker directing fire and we were firing on targets about 50 to 100 yards directly in front of us. It was really a lot of fun. Altogether we fired about 150 rounds of ammo in the afternoon.

Next week we fire the ^② 155 mm. howitzer.
That should be fun too. That is the kind on
the envelope. They are pretty good size.
John can tell you that.

By the way, did you check to see how much
I have in war bonds while you were down the
bank (Fron)? No rush - but you might take a
look for me. O.K.? Good!

Class 60 graduates Tuesday. That's one more
out of the way. I can remember when
class 56 was here. 61 will go in Feb. - Ken
you know who - whoopee!

Say Hi' to Grand ma and all the folks in
the neighborhood.

I'm sorry my letters are so short, but time
is very limited. For further info - exchange
notes with Mary. - Ask her up for dinner
sometime. I think she is feeling much better
lately. Try to have her up about once a
week. - you know cement relations as it were.

Well I can't think of anything
pertenant to tell you. If you think
of anything - ask me - I'll drop you
a card later this week.

Love to all,
Pete



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD



FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

~~15~~ JAN 55

Saturday.

16 - Sunday

(I was too tired last nite)

Dear Folks,

well, another week left to the Oklahoma winds. We start our 16th today. I don't think I got a card off this week, I can't remember. If I didn't, it was because I was really busy. We were out in the field quite a bit, both observing fire and actually firing the guns. Friday we fired the 155 mm howitzer. We had a graduation parade Monday for class 60. There was three inches of snow on the ground. Friday we paraded in rain and also mud. It has been cloudy and rainy all week.

This is our last week of gunnery. We have two big final tests. Say a prayer I do O.K. They are supposed to be pretty tough. After that we study mostly combined Arms and tactics, etc.

Thursday, when I was observing and adjusting fire (forward observer) I got a target hit on my initial rounds. Boy was I proud. That is
(over)

as rare as girls in a ~~YMCA~~ YMCA. John can varily that.

Seeing whereas Mary is getting much better, we are going ahead with our plans.

Fran - next time you're down town, check and see how much ~~money~~^{moala} I have in war bonds.

I may need them. ~~there was some~~

Also ask your insurance man about ^{me} getting insurance from him.

I ordered my Pinks & Greens the other day. I've worked out ways of buying my uniform. - some from one place, some from another. The cheapest I can figure is about \$250. Some guys spend about \$350. That \$250 isn't the cheapest, but it is about the best buys. I'm not going to charge any of my debts. So I may have to send for 50 to 100. But we can worry about that later.

Thanks again for that luggage you gave me for my birthday. It is certainly a good looking as well as practical piece. I'll get a lot of use out of it, I'm sure.

I haven't heard anything about assignments lately, but I'm pretty sure I'll be in the states for a few months. I may go to Japan (just a hunch) later in the summer. Officers can get concurrent travel for their wives to Japan.

(along with them - same boat)

③

Can you think of any arrangements I've forgotten, or any thing I should take care of before March?

If you do think of any, let me know.

By the way, - send me an income tax form, when you can get one. I recieved my w-2 form from the army yesterday. - Very disgusting! Next years will be much better, I'm sure.

When are they going to catch "the phantom"? They sure are going crazy around the neighborhood aren't they. If he's smart, he'll quit while he's ahead.

Tell Dave congratulations on winning that race. Also tell him to stay in condition it's one of the most important things. Also, keep trying for improvement. Never let up.

Say Hi to Mike - Tim & Tom - Also Gandra & all others. —

love,

Ridge

~



THE ARTILLERY CENTER OF THE WORLD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA



23 JANUARY 1955

Dear Folks,

Today is a beautiful day. The sky is a beautiful deep blue. The humidity is always low out here and there is no mist. The sun is producing some warmth and there isn't much wind. The wind is what makes it cold here. There aren't many hills to stop it. Just big mounds rising out of the plains.

I still have a few pieces of candy left. They were delicious. Also, the cards were all real cute. That one Dave sent, couldn't have been truer. Fran's letter was very much appreciated. All, so true. Believe me, I'll do my best to do right in everything and ~~and~~ anything I undertake to do. I realize you raised me the way you thought best. Most all of the short comings were on my behalf, but the experience can be used to good avail by both sides.

I took my last Gunnery test Friday. What a relief! I passed. It is sorta an anti-climax. Friday we leave for a week in the field with practical application. I hope the weather goes
(over)

us a break. It can get awful nasty around here. It has shown its worse half on a few of our "shoots." I'd hate to stay out all night in some of this gosh awful weather. But like they say - ~~the~~ "it's" always darkest just before the dawn." Signed

I'm glad you like the stole that Mary made. She isn't as helpless ~~at~~ as it may appear sometimes. She can do things when she puts her mind to it. She was quite disappointed when she didn't have it finished by Xmas. It will be nice to wear when you go out for an evening this spring. I thought it was really pretty myself. A job well done.

I'm glad to hear that Dave is doing pretty good in swimming. How are his studies? I presume Mike is doing O.K. Is he going to take the scholarship exam for the Catholic high schools? Are they prep'ing them for them. I hear that he wants to go to Loyola. I hope he can win a scholarship. If he doesn't are you going to send him there anyway? I think it would be a good idea. Of course the "jebbies" might ruin ~~them~~ him.

I got a check from Grand ma for my birthday (\$25). It sure will come in handy. As yet I haven't figured how much I'll need, but I think I'll have to send home for some dough. I'll let you know.
Love to all, Pidge

sunday 6 Feb 55

Dear Folks,

I guess you were wondering when I would get around to writing to you. Well, here it is at last.

I hope you had a wonderful Birthday, Eleanor. I'm really sorry I couldn't send you anything, but it was just out of the realm of possibility.

The week in the field was miserable. I caught a hell-of-a-cold. It was below freezing most of the time. Thursday it rained. And did it ever come down. We had about 2 inches. Our camp was under about 6 inches of water. Thank God I'm in the artillery. We took ammo boxes and put them on the ground and rolled our sacks on them. Also, God bless these duce and a halves (2½ ton trucks) they actually swim in the mud. We actually had mud up our...

Your letters were most welcome. I had one brought out to the field. The food was good, but it was frozen

before I could eat ⁽²⁾ it all. I went into town last night and bought a big steak dinner (\$1.18). It sure was nice sitting down to a good meal in nice surroundings. Now, with 4 weeks to go, we get a pass every night until 11:00 p.m. I probably won't go anywhere, but it is nice to have the privilege.

Class 61 graduates Tuesday. Then in 4 weeks class 62 pins on the bars. I ordered my summer uniform yesterday. I may get by without sending home for money. We'll see.

Mary said something in one of her letters about Fran might have to wear a "monkey suit." I wrote her and told her to find out definitely and to come up and let you all know.

If there is anything else you are in doubt about, ask her. She is really hopping - with all the plans, etc.

(3)

I am going to have Dave be best man, you know, sorta work down ward from the top. - I was marty's, etc. I hope Marty isn't disappointed. I also figure that Marty can better run the affairs in the back of the church. Flowers and corsages, etc. He has been through it once, and he knows what is going on. Speaking of that, the ushers and best man didn't wear gloves in Marty's wedding, did they? If Mary asks, let her in on the scoop. I don't ~~to~~ really care myself whether we do or not.

You were right about Lou's Lt. bars. The gold (brass) ones were the right ones. Mary must have been thinking backwards that day, or something.

Wouldn't you know it! The first winter that I'm away from that section of the country - it goes below

freezing and stays ⁽⁴⁾ there all winter.
I would really like to do some
skating. Maybe when I get home I'll
be able to go. Ha! Ha!

Fran - did you ever check the correct
amount I had in war bonds? Don't
forget. Also will you ask your
insurance man about insurance. I want
to get about a 1953 model car.

Tell Dave I was quite disappointed
when I heard that Dave had quit
swimming. I think that was very
foolish. He should get "back in the swim."

Say Hi to everybody, and tell them
I'll see them in a month -

Love to all,

Pidge

saturday 12 - Feb 65 - (Lincoln's BIRTH
day)

Dear Folks,

- Another Week "on the way"! I'm glad to get in the twenties now. This begins the 20th Three weeks more. I have taken care of all my uniforms now. Of course I haven't paid for them yet. I'll do that the day before I graduate when I get my pay.

I haven't made any plane reservations yet, but I'm going to go out to the airport this afternoons. As for you sending me my \$40 check, don't. I'll need it more when I get home than I will here. I figure that I'll just come out right with my money here. I'll probably get off the plane with about \$202 in my pocket, but with a million dollar smile on my face.

Also, I don't particularly want to sell my car. What I can get for it, wouldn't be worth selling, as I want to work with it and use it to run around in. - (If I get the time) - I might or might not.

②

I was glad to hear that you are sending me some candy. News like that is always welcome. Also so is the food & goodies. Mary sent me some fudge last week which must have melted in the mail, so when I ate it I just picked up a big slab of it and took a bite (It froze up solid again in my foot locker) speaking of that foot locker, you should see it. Now that I'm upperclass, we don't stand inspection. - we do the actual inspecting - thus those foot lockers are like Fibber McGee's closet. - Spring loaded. When I unlock it the lid springs open from the pressure. - But - I know where every little item is stowed. Believe it or not. We are now taking up MOI (methods of instruction) some of it might interest Pop as a teacher. Every officer spends 80% of his time teaching and 20% checking to see that his teachings & orders are carried out.

most all of our ⁽³⁾ time is spent in the classroom now, except when we are teaching P.T. I'll probably gain some weight these last few weeks. Did I tell you I got 407 in my last P.T. Test. - Before we went into the field. The four were 232 - 323 - 356 - 407 - Quite a build up. Average is 250. Passing 211. - Better tell Dave not to wrestle with me when I get home - he might get hurt.

Mary said she is taking care of seeing that the boys go down to Danny's. I suppose Marty & Dave went down. Hugh Williams and Joe Mace are the other two ushers. - As for gloves - I don't think we wore them. I can't remember though. I'd rather not, if there is a choice.

Is there anything else I've forgotten as to the wedding? If so, write and tell me about it. when I get my orders. - Should next week. I'll write my next station and inquire about quarters, etc.

I did get the $\text{\$}5.00$ that Aunt Ann sent, and
I did write her a thank you note. That
was awfully nice of her wasn't it.

Well, I can't think of any more
news. Take it easy. Don't let the
weather get you down.

Love to all,

Fidge

Sunday - 20 Feb 55

Dear Folks,

I guess by now you are all caught up in the tide of plans for my home-coming and wedding. If you aren't, -why the heck aren't you? I guess you think I'm pretty conceited after that remark don't you. Well, maybe I am. I also am pretty proud of myself for graduating. (I hope) I have only 9 academic days. If I can't get through them, well, sham on me!

I should get my orders this week some time. I expect to go airborne. That would mean either Ft. Campbell, Ky. or Ft. Bragg, N.C. I hope I get the latter. I hope you aren't worrying about me making parachute jumps. Mary was a little ~~shook~~ "shaken up" over it, but I think she will see that it isn't as bad as it is made out to be. It is quite safe now. A greater percent of accidents happen from other things on an Army Post such as mis-fires and accidental discharge of weapons and erratic rounds than the percent of

people that get hurt by jumping. Also
a minor fact. - \$1200 a year extra pay.

speaking of pay, etc. Please get me
an income tax form, I'll send it in
when I get home, but have it there.
your candies were ~~so~~ very good, as
were Grandma's cookies. Thanks again.

That was a very interesting article about
the Pretty Boy Dam. Good reading!

Tuesday is George Wash. birthday. Its too
bad my wreck is sitting on Fran's plot.
He won't be able to start his garden
there. May I suggest he put it on the
other side of the garage. Just south of
the swings. (the garden, that is)

Nothing exciting has been happening. Just a
lot of paper work. Critiques to write, etc.
I'll see you all when I get there,

Love,

Pidge

Sunday, 22 Feb 55

Dear Folks,

No orders have come in for me yet. If none come in, I'll get assigned here at Ft. Sill. Mary probably told you all about it, if not ask her. If that happens, we may not have too much time for a honeymoon. You haven't mentioned it, did you get me an income tax form? If not do, please. Thanks for finding about the auto insurance. Will you ask Marty to ask his man. I'm also going to try to find out about some thru the Army. Only one more academic week. It is broken ~~up~~ up by several uniform fittings, etc. I imagine it will pass pretty fast. We lost another candidate from our class this week. That makes 4 in the last 4 wks. The class is now down to 45. of which about 30 are original.

I am going to call Mary when anything definite comes thru on my orders she'll let you know.

Thank John Wills for his letter. It's quite an occasion when he writes.

There isn't too much news. Or should
I say, everything is happening so fast
that its too much to write about.

I'll see you March 8. -

Love to all,

P. Dye

o/c John C. Fairbank, RA 13459191
The Artillery Officer Candidate Sch.
Btry "C" Class 62 3rd Plt.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Fri. 29 Sep 54

Hi Folks,
Just thought I'd let you know that all's well.
I'll try to write a letter as soon as I get a
little time. I got your letter yesterday and I
finally got to read it last night. Frans note was
very helpful. Especially last night. We are busy
all the time. My throat is sore from giving
commands, etc, as I am candidate plt. leader, 3rd plt.
this week. - until Monday. Next week I don't have
a command position. I'll give someone else a chance.
I'll write later - Pidge

o/c John C. Fairbank, RA 13459191
Artillery Officer Candidate Sch
Btry "C" Class 62 3rd Plt.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

29 Sep 54.

Dear Folks,
I haven't had time to write, per usual -
so I'm sending this card along. It rained
last night for about 20 min. - our first - It
also hailed for about 5 min. They are throwing
it at us thick and furious. They teach in
one hour what would usually take 5. No
time for loafing. I'll write when I get time.
~~PS~~ Say Hello to all relatives & friends,
Pidge

o/c John C. Fairbank, RA 13459191
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry "C" Class 62 3rd Plt
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

6 Oct 54

Dear Folks,
I'm O.K. per usual, but I still don't
have a heck of a lot of time, so I'm just
sending this card along. We went on a motor
march last night which was really a nice
experience. It relieved the tension for a few
hours. I'll write a letter this weekend
or when I get time,
"Pidge"

O/C John C. Fairbank, RA13254191
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry "C" Class 62 3rd Plt.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Wednesday - 13 Oct 54

Dear Folks,

I'm still eating good & gaining weight here - half way thru the 4th week. We are still rushed and kept busy all the time. We have finished in the Dept. of Motors. Today we studied small arms. Something new every day. They are really teaching us a lot of stuff. Yesterday we started work on maps. It covered a lot of stuff I had up Ft. Belvoir.

I'll write this weekend when I get time,
Pidge

O/C John C. Fairbank, RA13254191
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry "C" Class 62 3rd Plt.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Thursday
21 Oct 54

Dear Folks,

Thanks for sending the newspapers about Hurricane Hazel. It was very interesting reading some local news for a change. I would have liked to have been there to see it. Also would have liked to have seen the stream where you went for the picnic Sunday. I'll write more news this weekend and let you know how I'm doing.

Love to all
Pidge

O/C John C. Fairbank, RA13254191
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry "C" Class 62 3rd Plt.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Wed. 27 Oct 54

Dear Folks,

The pace has stepped up somewhat in our studies. Don't be surprised if the mail doesn't come as thick or as often. Remember, studies first. I'll try to squeeze in a note on the weekend. The chow is still darn good. I only wish we had about 6 meals a day. I'm always hungry. And also sleepy. - much burning of "ye olde midnite oil" write soon.

Pidge

of John C. Fairbank, RA13954101
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry C Class 62 3rd Pth.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Wednesday, 3 Nov 54

Dear Folks,

It has turned cooler here. How is the weather up
there? I got the box of cookies you sent. They are
really good & enjoyed by all. Also the candies that
Mary sent. The candy box was slightly battered, but
the cookies were intact. I got a letter from Boots
yesterday. Naturally, he hates Korea - and who wouldn't.
He seems to be making the best of things however.
He is also in the Artillery. - I'll write ~~the~~ a letter
this weekend.

Love to All,
Pidge

of John C. Fairbank, RA13954101
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry C Class 62 3rd Pth.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Wed. 8 Dec 54

Dear Folks,

We have been pretty busy lately, - lots of
tests & field work. Thus the lack of mail
from this end. I will try to write
in more detail this weekend. It has
gotten much colder lately, and it seems that
the coldest days are those when we go out
into the field. It warms up when we have
inside classes. The food is still the best
in the army, so I'm living it up.

- Love to all,
Pidge

of John C. Fairbank, RA13954101
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry C Class 62 3rd Pth.
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

5 Jan 55

Dear Folks,

How's everything going with you this year?
I'm doing O.K. I make upperclass this Saturday.
There's starting a new system where the upperclass status
lasts 8 weeks instead of 9. We are the first Btry
to be 8 wk. upperclass. They are splitting us up into
different Btrys so my address might change. To
F Btry maybe I'll let you know if it does.
I'll get off a letter with more news this wkend.

Love to all,
Pidge

o/c John C. Fairbank RA13954191
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry F Class 62 2nd PHT
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Wed - 19 JAN 55

Dear Folks,

Just a note to ~~let~~ you know I'm still living. I was going to write that I'm still a warm body, but we've been out in the field so much lately that my body is seldom warm. It is really cold here. We go out in the field for a week beginning Friday 28 JAN. - that should be rich!

Love to all
Pidge

o/c John C. Fairbank, RA13954191
Artillery Officer Candidate School
Btry F Class 62 2nd PHT
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

26 JANUARY 1955

Dear Folks,

I received your letter yesterday. The news was welcome. I'll bet that it was the phantom burglar that opened your back door. You better be more careful. Now that we have finished gunnery, we are doing quite a bit of field work including preparing for firing the m1 and carbine. It isn't quite as cold as it has been. I hope it continues to get warmer and drier for next week. I probably won't get a chance to write at all next week, so don't worry if you don't hear from me. - Love to all. Pidge

o/c John C. Fairbank, RA13954191
Arty Officer Candidate Sch
Btry F Class 62 2nd PHT
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Wednesday - 9 Feb 1955

Dear Folks,

How's the ice-skating? From the looks of things in the newspaper you sent me, you'll be able to skate down to Annapolis any day now. Your letters are enjoyed very much, as is all the local news and gossip. Keep them coming. I'll do my best to keep writing also. We are now taking up General Subjects (classroom) such as Supply-Admin. Correspondence, etc. I'll probably gain about 10 lbs. I'll write more later - this weekend.
Love to all
Pidge

o/c John C. Fairbank
Arty Officer Candidate Sch.
Btry F Class 62 2nd pt
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

15 Feb 55 - Tue.

Dear Folks,

I received the candy and also the cookies. Thanks. - Both you and Grandma. I am enjoying both, as is are my buddies. I hear that the weather back home is quite the big topic of conversation. It has been real springlike here all this week. It would get that way, now that our classes are all inside. - I'll write this weekend and see you in three weeks - Love to all, Pidge

o/c J.C. Fairbank
Arty O.C.S.
Btry F. Class 62 2nd pt
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Wed. 23 Feb 55

Dear Folks,

We had a nice holiday yesterday. I stayed in bed until 9:00 a.m. That wasn't a bit hard to take! Mary said she really enjoyed the shower. I'm doing O.K., but still rushed for time, but not as bad as it has been. It won't be too long now. Just a couple weeks. I'll let you know definitely what time I land next week. - Love, Pidge

o/c John C. Fairbank
Arty Officer Candidate Sch.
Btry F. Class 62 2nd pt
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

1 Mar 55 -

Dear Folks,

I'll arrive at The D.C. airport at 10:20 p.m. 3 March 55. It is on an American airlines flight from Dallas, Tex. I don't know the flight number. I would greatly appreciate it if you could pick me up. I called Mary tonight - I presume she told you all. - I'll see you when I get there. Love to all, Pidge