
Joseph DeHaan Korean War correspondence

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5-12-1950

1950-05-12, Joseph to Dorothy

Dorothy Page

Joseph DeHaan

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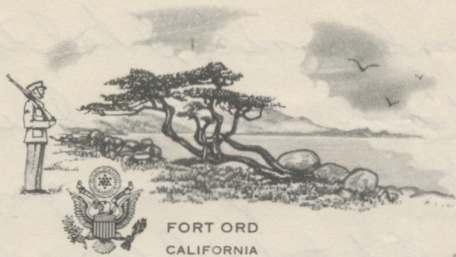
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Rct. Joseph N. DeHaan
Co. M 12th Inf. regt.
Fort Ord
Calif.



Miss Dorothy Page
Rt. 5
Red Lake Falls
Minnesota

Fort Ord, Calif.
May 12, 13 or 14



Dear Sweetheart,

Well here it's Friday nite already and I didn't write you all week. I could have gotten a week end pass, but I gave it to another guy. I want to write letters and sleep this week end. Maybe go to a few shows. I saw the show "Ticket to Tomahawk", "Caged", "Destination Tokyo" and "Lisboa", they are all good shows. I go to the last show, it starts after lights out and after we have our work done.

We all got 2 shots yesterday, my arms were so stiff and sore I could hardly move them. They made us do rifle exercises this morning. That sorta loosened them up. My left one is pretty sore yet. We went out and practiced for the big parade on the 20th. I guess our company did pretty damn good. That was nice on those parades, they have 2 big military bands real big ones too.

We had a picture taken of the company after the parade. If I show up pretty good I'm going to buy one or two. I should take some more pictures too, I should have a bigger camera.

Today a recruit called a private a s--- of a b--- I guess he's really going to catch hell. There's a lot of them that smart off and stuff. They are the ones that get K P lately. If I can stay out of that I'll sure do it.

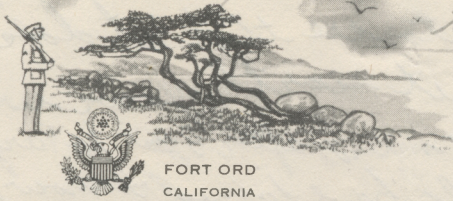
I was on guard duty last Sunday nite. I had to walk post around a long string of ware houses. It was real dark and quiet there, I kept thinking how you'd like to have been in my place. I bet you'd be real scared. I had to walk post 2 hours twice that nite.

So Lucille and Erwin aren't doing so good huh? and Ben and George either I suppose? I suppose three years from now you'd still want to wait for them to get hitched first. Well there's lots of time yet.

Its hard to tell when or how long a furlough I get yet. We might get only 9 weeks of basic, but they want me to take 2 months of leaders course after basic. I still don't know what the heck to sign up for. I'll have to pick one pretty soon, or they will pick one for me. If I take "heavy equipment" I'll go to West Virginia and I'll get a delay on route. I would get 10 days at home then. I'll just have to wait and see what I get into. I'd had to pay for the ticket from here and back. It would cost too much for just 40 days at home. I really am a long ways from home.

There aren't any women here on the base except some Negro wacs, and some nurses in the hospitals, and up town they are spoken for. I hear tell there are lots of places where they charge \$15.00 and up, and do good business too. I won't have anything to do with that trash. That's more for Lawrence and guys like him. I'm satisfied to go with these good guys here and hope to see you this summer, and of course get lots of letters from you.

I wrote lots of letters around home, but don't
get many answers, I won't write them again
till ^{they} answer them.



FORT ORD
CALIFORNIA

I've been reading your last two letters
over trying to figure what to write next.

So Wilbert said he wouldn't marry Isabelle
if he got too fat. There's another case of true love.
all he wants is shape and heat, nothing else counts.
If he couldn't do what he does to her, he wouldn't have
anything to do with her, that's why he quit Betty Weiss.
The same with Lawrence he talked Margaret out of teaching
school so he could get married and have lots of fun.
now he practically hates Margaret for it. Now he doesn't
have a pot to you know what in either.

I know it's hard for both of us to be so far apart for so
long, but if I was still home I wouldn't have any future
either. I guess we have to be apart to realize how much
we love each other. We're still young yet and I know it's better
this way. I can't figure how come I'm so, I say body
else here says the same thing.

I dream I'm home on furlough almost every nite
I usually dream I'm with you and not at our place. It's
only you I miss, no body else.

I sure don't miss that God forsaken weather you
are having up there. It's been pretty damn cool here
lately and cloudy once in a while, but at least it doesn't
rain or snow here. I used to hate those cold rainy
spring days with no sun shine, and lots of water and
mud. That makes me glad I'm here. I suppose if I was
taking you out I'd have to use chairs or walk a ways
I know I'd do it if I was there.

Now don't worry about that dream not coming true, because I'll do my best to see that it does, and like I said before I'll make it worth your while to wait. If I'd have changed my mind after I got to Fargo and came back home, I'd wish would have joined I know that.

Well I started this letter Fri nite and now it's Sun. after already. Sat. morning I went over to the Army Education Center and the Career reference library. I'm going to take up Clerical work I'm pretty sure anyway, a person has to work to damn hard in Mechanics or Heavy Equipment. It should be every person's ambition to have a job, where he don't to have to wear work clothes all his life. It doesn't take long to get to be Sargent in this Clerical work either. What I saw of them, they sure don't work very hard. As long as you get used to the army, I'm sure I can get used to clerical work. I'll be signing up for that next week, least that's what they say.

You know something? there are 6 or 7 guys in every barracks here that, need to be in the navy. They all say they had to work to hard and it was awfully tiresome. I talked to some guys that took Basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas. They said they are way more strict there on a lot of things. They didn't get a weekend pass until their 6th week and they couldn't wear civilian clothes on off duty hours. There some got passes the 3rd week and we all can wear civilian clothes. I guess I'm lucky I got to come here. The weather is a lot nicer here too.

Well sweetheart, don't get to discouraged, I get 30 days furlough every year, and I'll see you when ever possible. Remember, lots of guys get Married while they are just privates or corporals. All my love
I love you darling

I am not going to play slot machines or drink beer here any more