

Pfc W.H. Bloomingburg (33, 639, 693)
Co. G. – Gr. 6 – 2nd Regt.
A.S.F.R.D.
Camp Reynolds, Pa.

Greenville
Apr 10
8:30 PM
1944
PA.

Miss Sallie Loving
5817 – N. Washington Blvd.
Arlington, Va.

Mon. morning

Dear Sallie,

Its 2 o'clock in the morning and I'm supposed to be on fire guard but I came into the day room to write a few minutes before making the rounds again. Wayne & I are working opposite shifts. He worked from 7-1, I work from 1-7, he works 7-1 tomorrow & I work 1-7. We have to keep fires going in 6 barracks, 3 stoves in a barracks. It wouldn't have been so bad but the fellow who was supposed to be on yesterday afternoon shipped out or something, anyway when we came on last night most of the fires were out or were so low you had to work & work to build them up. We both worked together getting them started, then I got about 3 hrs. sleep and Wayne got me up & I'm on by myself now. Its raining cats & dogs outside & has been off & on for 3 days. The first 2 days here it snowed & was really cold Just about ever since then it has been raining. If the sun did shine you couldn't see it for the coal smoke. There is smoke coming from every one of the building and it seems to hang right above the ground. Every night you look like a little bit of Africa that wasn't quite made right.

We're about 80 mi. north of Pittsburgh. Its 3 miles south of Greenville, Pa., 30 mi. north of Youngstown, Ohio & 15 mi. north of Sharon, Pa. so you can figure out about where it is. This really seems to be an isolated part of the world. We got here from Denver on last Tues. The first few days we went through some "processing" but couldn't write any because we didn't have an address. The last Thur. we moved up to where we are now so had an address. Fri. we did 16 hrs. K. P. Now tonight we're on this fire guard. About the only detail we haven't caught is guard duty. Some fellows have been here 2 & 3 weeks with no detail at all. When you're not on detail you get more or less a form of basic training. That's what I want because its what I need. Calisthenics, hiking & drilling are 3 things I haven't had too much of for a long time.

(Later) – I just checked on all my fires and they're doing better than I expected, except one barracks doesn't have any fire now. I can't figure these stoves out. In 1 barracks there was a very slight fire so I put in a little coal & opened the draft and a few minutes later it was so hot I

had to shut the draft. In the barracks where they are out, the fires weren't much worse but instead of responding they are out completely.

I don't have the slightest idea how long we'll be here. I think it will be at least 3 or 4 weeks. I don't believe I ever heard a place condemned more than this but its natural for them to run down a place, then when they go to a new camp they wish they were back at so & so. It always works that way.

I'm going to write Orville and I hope his address hasn't changed. I believe he owes me but when I get time to write and it has been a long time since I've written a certain person, I write again, whether they answered my letter or not. He probably hasn't had time and I have. You'd be surprised how much of your time they're able to use up.

Summer isn't too far away so school will be out in a couple more months. Do you have any big plans for the summer? I was reading the other day about the Appalachian Trail. You might try walking it this summer. You'd get to see the mountains anyway.

I'd better check my fires again. Besides my eyes are getting heavy so I'd better get outside or I'm liable to drop off.

Love,

Wendell

P.S. – My eye is clear now and Wayne's toe is coming along pretty well. We're about to [illegible] from our furlough.