

969th Ord HAM Co
P. Breckinridge, Ky.
31 Aug. 1944.

Dear Mother & Dad:

I have, what you might call some bad news for you. I have been putting off telling it to you for a long time for fear of upsetting both of you. However, I have never kept anything from you and I don't feel right, so here it is. I have joined the paratroopers. I volunteered, took my physical, and I am now waiting for orders. I shall be transferred to Ft Brannan, Ga. I want you to know that I am not jumping into this without any previous consideration. I have been thinking about it for a long time, much longer than you realize. I am not going to try to explain my reasons very well. I know I can't in a letter. One reason is the extra money. I want to go to college more than you realize and I know I can never do it unless I save some money for it now. My board a month is not amounting to very much. Fifty dollars extra a month will help it a great deal. Another reason may sound "corny" to you, but you might call it patriotism. I feel that I am not doing

all I can or should for my country. This is one way of trying to do more.

Well, now that is off my chest I think I will be able to go to sleep tonight for the first time in a long while. I hope that my actions have not hurt or upset either of you too much. If they have, please try to understand my point of view and try not to criticize me too much. I would like to feel that you understand, approve, and are praying for my success.

you can see that under these conditions a furlough is out of the question right now. I am awaiting shipping orders. However, when the orders come through I shall apply for a delay in route, and may get home that way. Don't count too heavily upon it though.

Well, that's all for now. Say "hello" to Billie for me, "will ya"?

your Loving Son
"Gly"