

357th Infantry
APO #95
Camp Barkey, Tex
May 10, 1943

Dear Folks,

Received your letter and will answer immediately.

About that information you wanted - So far, I just haven't been able to procure it. There doesn't seem to be any one definite officer in charge of the induction into the program. A reviewing board of several officers decides who is eligible. Since writing before on the subject I have found out a little more about it and have did a little loose thinking. - There is a probability that requirement for eligibility will be lowered somewhat later and there are indications that there will be later opportunities to get into it.

This specialized training program is not what you would call study courses. It apparently came into being because of the need of trained specialists in different fields for various branches of the army. Engineering, Medicines, psychology, and languages are the four fields. - If picked, you are sent to one of various colleges and given what is probably a very narrow intensive, and rushed education in the field selected. From there you go to an officer's training school and after military training get commissioned in some field for which the training has lifted you. That's what I've found out about it so far.

Now, I'll have to confess some dismal doubts I have in regard to the subject. In the first place three of the fields are closed definitely to me. Languages, and medicine for obvious reasons. Engineering - have no outstanding or even reasonable ability in mathematics, primary requisite for engineering. - So there is only psychology left. I'm interested in child and educational psychology, but I'm afraid. that will not be the kind studied. It, in all probability, will be clinical psychology, dealing with insanity and various forms of nerve disorder. I wouldn't be too sure of myself in a field like that.

You are probably disgusted with my lack of confidence by now, but I don't want to blunder into any unnecessary frustration.

Don't think I've given the idea up. Just want to think it over.

We got definite information the other day about furloughs. We will get them the first part of June. So I'll probably be home in about three weeks and can explain more about what it's all about. and discuss it more effectively.

Would welcome all advice and information.

Virgil

P.S. I've enrolled in a course of psychology (correspondence) through the army institute.

The reason I express doubts about trying to get into this specialized training is mainly because if I did manage to get through the bars with my inadequate formal education it would be because of exhibiting an outstanding ability in one of those specific fields, and I'm just afraid not.

There are brainless creatures who are going, of course.