

Nov. 3, 1943



UNITED STATES MARINES  
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA  
CAMP JOSEPH H. PENDLETON

Dear Mom and Dad,

Got your letter today that you sent with pictures. They were really swell. I'll send the ones I don't want, back in this letter. Can't buy very many because there just isn't any room. There is the picture of you and Dad taken, when you were walking down the road? Can't figure out where that can be.

So you saw Jack. I talked with him quite a bit before he left boot. He did quiet down a lot there.

Just back from school before I started this. He get out at 8:30 as usual. Tonight we had chemical war. fare. The different gases and etc. That little I tell you, for god's sake, buy it under your hat. I don't want to get in trouble.

II

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In the morning we get our mess gear, canteen, and we go to Demolition school. This is just for practice, so I still don't know what I am into.

Today, rather this afternoon, we threw hand grenades. There is quite a knack to doing it right. I have done it in back, so I know a little about it.

So Pa hasn't gone hunting but a couple of days! He says he couldn't hit any roasters. Bet he doesn't even get a hen.

Just at this time to wish you happy birthday, Pa. Will send you a present when we get paid Friday. Can't afford it right now though.

Is you donated blood too? Seems as if everyone back there is giving blood.

III

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I should have told you  
not to work for at least  
a day. They didnt make us  
work hard for about three  
weeks.

atch isnt broken. Got  
ready to leave boat, and I  
took it out, and started  
to set it, just for fun. The  
damn thing started to run  
and it has kept perfect time  
since. Sure I will close  
for now.

Love  
Bill