

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

3/10/42

Honey -

Here's the short story. in-
stead of what I spoke of
in the other ~~letter~~ letter. I
just dashed it off & it's too
big for the envelope. Hope
you can read & type it.

Let me know what you
think of it.

Love

Wanda.

The ^{Top-}Good Corporal

Everybody in old F Company
now part of B. Company,
knew Eddie Greenberg. And
everybody like him. He was
that good. He was so good
that it actually hurt - him.

Maybe it was the contrast
between him & the "G.I."
tough Top-Kicks who took
over after the consolidation of
the two companies that made
us appreciate him more than
we deserved. Maybe it
was because he was ^{discreetly} being
"Rangomed," but we came to
truly appreciate him lately.

Answer F

Maybe it was the story
of who died for the two
lonely, virtually jess last
week.

2/

Eddie was literally the lampy
landmark. He was at least half
again as large as I & Orin are
two and a quarter. His head from
the notch to the neck, round
and fairly shaped in between.

There is only one thing wrong
with Eddie. He has a speech
impediment that makes
him swell up, choke & get
red as hell after about
every ten words. After he
spits a couple of lines he gets
out the word & goes along
smoothly until the next
choke.

3/ All the jugs lean down
him down as soon as they get
in. He's always around, always
helpful.

I needed help yesterday,
and, much to my surprise,
~~he was sitting a few feet~~
~~away as soon as I walked in~~
just as I needed him. So
was very simple, but
everybody is so afraid of the
top - think that nothing is
simple. I had walked into
the study room and asked
to be sent to have my shoes
fixed. The holes in the shoes

4/ We do ~~capacious~~ capacious in
feet but from the hardness
and that coked between
the soles.

The corporal who was
in charge of quarters hesitated.
He either didn't know
what to do or feared "Puke"
The top-bunk might not
like it. As he stood
around Eddie finally
said "Give me that pad."
Let him take care of it. You just -"
and here he choked on it.

But he did take care of it.
I left with a "fuel slip"
addressed to "Warehouse 26"

5/ And returned an hour ~~later~~
later with a nice set of
rubber shoes.

This morning I jumped
into him again in the
Service Club Cafeteria.

While we was gabbing a
hopeful little jeep came
up and said, "Remember
me, corporal? I just wanted
to thank you. Mom too."

Eddie didn't remember him.

"Isn't the guy with the
Canadian mother," the jeep
explained.

"Oh, yes," Eddie said, frowning

of him on the back. "Glad to, sooner-
anytime."

As the jeep walked off Eddie
~~for~~ turned to me and said
"I don't have the slightest
idea who he is a - drinking
& spitting - 'What Odio for
him.'"

Without being in under-
not if you ~~know~~ him a
his marvelous looks - he
said, smiling contentedly,
"You know, I do some much
for these kids I can't ~~remember~~
remember for whom I did what."

He was like that. He did
everything unconsciously. He really

2/ ~~the~~ understand the plight
of these kids, the shock of the
~~change~~ abrupt change from
civilian life and its indivi-
dualism to army life and
its complete subordination of
individualism - everybody
except his own.

Like last Monday I sent
a kid of about 18 to him.
The kid asked me how to go
about getting a hair cut -
did he need it - when he
was always on detail at the
house the barber was open.

I asked the kid what company
he was in, and he said Company B.

7: "Know Ingal Freeway?"

O added.

Pa. Mike said he didn't
hunt so.

O ~~and~~ describes Eddie's
back, his speech impediment,
but the kid didn't know
him.

"Well, well, " O advised,
"this one guy you ought to know.
He's a ~~really~~ helluva decent
nigger. He'll help you out
he can."

"Oh I know who you
mean." The jeep explained, his
face really all shines. "You
mean the guy who tanks the
guys in at night?"

9) I couldn't believe that I
Knew Eddie was as decent as
he was bad. But not
trucking the jeep in bed.

"Honest to God" The
Kid maintained. We seen
it. He goes around every
night and sees that all the
boys are covered."

I was astounded. This was
too good, wasn't it? The so-called
Eddie Greenberg.

"Jesus, I should have thought of
him," the jeep said. "He's the
~~the~~ guy who got up about 2
o'clock that last night & put

10/ his own Hankie on the fellow
with the bad cold. He go
see him; and with that
the kid was off like a
bat out of hell.

When O spoke to him
this morning O asked
Eddie if he could get me
a pass for tomorrow so I
could go up to New York,
go to the Theater Wing
Quinten and have some
fun. He said to look him
up tomorrow & he'd see what
he could do.

He really does things
with passes.

11/ Last ~~week~~ week he really did something for those two jeps who have been here in the reception center for almost two months without our getting paid a shipper to an assignment where they could go out and have some fun at night.

He got them & himself a three-day pass. He took them to New York, checked in at the Essex, found three gorgeous girls, and they had a wonderful time. The hotel bill alone was \$105.

12). Money, of course, was
nothing to him. He had
lots of it ~~but~~ I never
~~know~~ knew from where,
but I imagine his dad
was wealthy. Eddie had
spent 6 years in college
and had studied abroad.

Now he used his French
to denounce his superiors
and get away with it.

Now Din Dong asked
him for a pass, because he is
unhappy. He's being shipped
to "Rangom," what "Rangom"
he doesn't know. He doesn't

13/ Know why, either. Some of the
boys think The Sergeant doesn't
like him. I rec'd the non-
coms said he thinks its
because its too hard for Eddie
to give orders because of his
trouble.

Best that doesn't make
sense. He'll have that
trouble wherever he goes. He
knows it, too. I think that
why he's unhappy. Hope he
has a spot where he can do
some good, at least for the
moral of those who will
soon be over Army.

14) "There's not much chance of
that any place else, and
Eddie certainly will
never make a warrior.

No, none of these
make sense. I think the
jerk who sat down to his
coffee with me after Eddie
left had it right.

"You know why they're
Rangooning Eddie?" ~~he~~ ^{he} asked.

"Because he can't furnish
us.

"He's too good."

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

Honey,

3/10/43 - 10/4am

I'm on duty. I've been
rushed a bit, & in spite of last
night's good sleep I'm tired.

There is only this news: I got
paid this p.m. - I think
I'm paid - \$60.00. I got your
clips & the shoe ties & I
was coming down here. I have
given you the clips & am returning
mine. Thanks a lot, honey.

One of the Outline copy the
shipping address. Maybe will
also get ^{from} ~~from~~. Today is my
75th.

2/ -

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

I have dropped Bill a note.
I have been intending to get
some cards & write Mrs. W.
but can't get any.

Now I think I'll start
cleaning up early to get
some sleep.

Love

Harold.

Service Club



Wednesday 3/10/77

Harry

I got your letter with the clipping
last night extra show. I returned an
envelope to you, washed, got in bed,
read the clips, just those chances
in the livelife, and, after listening
to a few news broadcasts, went to
sleep. In bed 6:30. asleep before 8.
I was a tired person all night.
They feel me. For the first time
in a long while I slept as my
back. Today I feel fine, save for
the old funny feeling of weakness
at the base of the spine. Nothing
like a good sleep. At noon I was
in so wide awake it feels almost
like you. . . I did get a note
from Bill, in the same mail.

2/

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

About the fruit cake: I'd like to have it if you can put it in a substantial package.

Today is supposed to be pay day. I signed the payroll. I'll go all that's coming to me. I'll be sending some bonds home to you. I hope I get paid up to date. I'm beginning to be treated like a soldier. Yesterday I had no trouble at all getting a pair of shoes solid.

One of "our boys" - our Ontario gang, visited the mother of the personnel office yesterday & went

5/

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

now to demand to know when he
was going to be shipped. They
told him he'd be shipped by the
end of the week. Now he is
quite shipped, and most of the
others are a bit shipped. By
the time you've been around
a place like this as long as we
it begins to wear gives in
your resistance. You begin
to accept everything without
bothering to be annoyed. Which
is both good and bad - the latter
has a long-range view. I find
myself a lot less interested

4/

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

in going anywhere else now
that I'm at least doing
something. Of course, the lack
of personal reports from
the places to which ~~the~~
shipments are being made
bear on our feelings, too.

However, I still was a
war reservation in the Army.
I can't throw myself into
this hard enough to convince
myself it will help at
all in winning anything.
One of my Ontario

37
Service Club



U. S. ARMY

Colleges this morning told
me I was "on - convention,"
if there is any such thing,
because I was doing more
than my share. He is a nice
fellow, a lawyer & authority
on certain aspects of the law.
His prior was essentially
Mavis, why shouldn't I
rest along, take it easy. I
still don't subscribe to this
attitude, though, hardly, I
am no less long a more
energetic than the others.

6/

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

Yesterday afternoon I almost
went to speak to a doctor. By
coincidence last week one
day the doctor and assistants
came in. The assistant so
started talking, & he told me
I could speak to the doctor almost
any afternoon my legs have been
giving me trouble. I've discovered
that my knees hurt most
when it's warm. Oh, well.

Today is a beautiful day. It's
hot warm, ~~so~~ very sunny, the
air is clear. And I'm not
officially on duty until 5 p.m.

2/

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

Well, I think I'll pitch in on
a little work in a little while,
or I'll close about now. I
may include some of the
"notes" I spoke about yester-
day, if I have time. Hope
you can read them if I do.
The shoe trees have not yet
come. Do you know when
they come. Please let me know
what the doctor says today. I'll
be in if I don't slip, but I'd
like to know as soon as possible.

Respectfully,
M. D. A. T. J.

Love
Waldo

3/10/43

Service Club



U. S. ARMY

Honey -

I've begun this letter to you as part of my new job. I filled the inkwells - about 30 of them - and now I am testing the pens - about 100 of them, replacing those that don't write well. I hope the boys appreciate it tonight when they come in to write and find all the wells have clean ink & all the pens have good, non-scratching pens. Maybe even their wives, sweethearts, parents & friends will notice the difference. Maybe lot of people will be just a little happier. I hope so. I am quite satisfied with the job, even though the hour may be bad. I didn't get to sleep until about 12 last night & when the boys were awakened this a.m. at 5:30, of course, I was unaltered with them. It is, however, all in all, fairly pleasant.

2/ Well, so much for the pens and
inks. Not counting all the ink on
me from filling the wells & pulling
out the defective points. Boy you
ought to see my hand. Ah, there
is another pleasant thing about
this job - one I believe I haven't
mentioned. All morning, from
8 on, we have been listening to
good music on the fine radio they
have here. All kinds - classical,
light-classical & ~~musical~~ operetta.
That helped the morning very
rapidly. Well, I'm about
through with this pen - about 6 miles
- and then to dinner for which I am
already late. If I get a chance before
the mail comes I'll add to this - but I
probably won't have a chance. I'm feeling
okay. I'm trying to get a pass again tonight.
Maybe I'll be able to write another
letter today - but I doubt if I can
make yesterday's make of 3! Exc. chf.
Regards to everybody. Love

Wanda