



Sept 6 1942
Co D-1 19th Batt
Yonfolk Va.

Hello Mardy.

I arrived at camp O.K. and all in one piece. Had a little trouble with my bag, but finally straightened that out.

It was a pretty tired bunch that landed here that Tuesday morning. The minute we landed that had muster call and then marched us to the drill field.

Then we had to put the men thru their paces, until noon time. In the afternoon we had another shot in the arm, and got our gas masks and helmets.

Wed the 9th we move to N. Carolina for a month to six weeks.

I think the camp we are going to is a marine camp at New River. At this point we are all going to be issued marine clothing. They have detached my company from the 19th so there will only be about 250 men go to N. Carolina. But I understand they are detaching D Co of the 18th at Quantico and sending them along with us.

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(21)
We eventually will be
a marine unit the
way it looks now.

If we get many more
clothes I will have to hire
a truck to haul them around.
The only bad thing about this
camp they say is the snakes.
When we move out there is
to be a large body of marines
going with us. The main
body of the 18th + 19th is due
to move out in about 2 weeks.
I was over to the marine base
at Norfolk Sat and saw all
the equipment piled up that
is going out with us. There
is to large transports of just
construction equipment alone.
And when we sail later I
understand we are to be at
sea from 6 - 8 weeks. Boy if
I don't get sick on this trip I
never will. To day Sunday
two other C.P.O.s and myself
got a pass and came to
Portsmouth navy yd.
We have been all over the yd.

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(3)
and got special passes.
and went aboard the
Alabama. The command-
ing officer assigned
an apprentice seaman to
show up around. She sure
is one of the biggest floating
fighting ships I have ever
seen. We spent almost 2 hrs.
on board. Then we came down
to the U.S.O club here in
Portsmouth and got cleaned
up, and while we are resting
our dogs I thought I would
drop you a line. I just
received your pictures this
morning and they were sure
swell. The only bad ones were
of me. I look as tho I had
lost my false teeth, but outside
of that they were not bad.
Thanks a lot Maude, for sending
the pictures, as I imagine
I will have them pretty well
worn out looking at them
before I get home again.
I sure had a swell time while
I was home and I know I will
never be able to repay you any

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Fred and all the others for
everything they have done
for me. So far I have
only written to Florence
Richard's mother because I
have been so busy. but tell
all the others I will write
just as soon as I can. Thanks
again for everything and I
will write again soon.
Love Johnnie.