



BIRMINGHAM
SOUTHERN



March 30, 1943

UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES

Hello Mrs M. S. Glynn.

I started back to college today - in fact as I write this I am in the library now. From what the upperclassmen tell us we won't have much chance to do any letter writing later - so I thought I would get this off to let you know - just what the set-up is down here.

We fall out, on the double, for roll-call at 5:45 A.M. - after roll-call we go back to our rooms - to make up the ^{beds} books etc - at about 6:30 we fall out for breakfast. After breakfast we march back to our rooms pick up our books & we are ready to go.

We march to & fro classes in groups called flights - everyone that has math at 7:30 falls into flight one - those having English into Flight 2 etc - classes last for fifty minutes - when we are dismissed from class we march back to our barracks

fall out of the flight we are in & "peel off" with another flight - between the hours of 9:30 - 10:30 the whole group drills on the athletic field - we are free from 11:30 - 1:30 - for lunch etc. Right now I have only three classes - math, Eng. & Physical Ed - we take each subject for a limited time & then our program is shifted & we take other courses - Right now I am in what is called Flight 19 - ^(a study hour) there is a flight 19 every hour - all men who do not have classes during an hour fall into flight 19 -

From what I gathered from the upperclassmen we are kept right on our toes - if marks ^{that} (which the dean turns in to our C.O. each week) are low we are confined to the grounds on weekends - otherwise our weekends are free - that is if we haven't too many "giggs": a "gigg" is an infraction of a military rule & one may be bad for various reasons



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namely - being late for any formation, shoes not shined, not being clean shaven, a button left unbuttoned - talking in ranks etc - two gigs keeps you in all day Sat. - three gigs the whole weekend. -

By the way the text that we are using for history is "The World Since 1914" Burns - I havnt history right now so I know little about the book. Speaking of books - all our text, paper, notebooks, ink, pens, pencils etc - are furnished us free - so that we have no expenses on that score -

That's about all for now. except for the fact that you should stop in & listen to the different types of accents down here we have men from New Jersey, N. Y. Brooklyn, Ohio, Va, & on top of it all - the southern drawl with which we are greeted

by all these Alabama folk -
they really are a swell group of
people & go out of their way
to make things pleasant for
us -

SECRET VIA YMCA STATE COUNCIL

Needless to say the color line
is sharply drawn here - was speaking
to a local boy yesterday & we
told him that negroes were
allowed to go to the same
schools & classes as whites up
north - he was really horrified
I wish you could have heard
the way he expressed it - it
sure was funny.

Hope you are keeping
my classmates on the beam -
How are those contract assignments
coming along? They must be
pretty much along -

Sincerely

John Cupone