

Les Snyder
"Just Kiddin' Around"
May 24, 1943
Basic Training, Fort Bragg, NC
USO Club

Hello there, Mom and Dad, how are you doin'? I'm in a USO Club in Fayetteville, NC. I just talked to you on the phone, and it sure was great to hear your voices again. I'm plenty busy here, and they keep us going every minute. We fired the 105 howitzers last week, and it sure was a thrill. . . . Just a second here, I got my pages crossed up here . . . I walked guard duty yesterday. Our gang had it for 24 hrs. You walk for two hours and are off for four. That makes 8 hours walking in all, and it sure gets tiresome. Went over to the commando course, and boy what a mess. They throw live dynamite at you most of the way, and it sort of keeps you moving, if you know what I mean.

There's a long stretch of swamp of it that has mud up to your waist, first, and then I had to travel over all obstacles conceivable. There was a stretch of about 20 ft. of barbed wire on the ground. You had to crawl under it. Someone must have stood up nights thinking of all these things. It really wasn't too bad, though, except for the mud. It sure does tire you too. [inaudible] My trip to West Virginia last week was really wonderful. Mrs. Vaughn had steaks for us as big as I've ever seen, hot and sizzling. I can see the water dripping from the fellows's mouths here all around me, so I'd better stop this kind of talk. Oh yah, just one thing more. We had southern style fried chicken for Sunday dinner. It was really great.

Les Snyder
"I'm Sailing Tomorrow"
Fort Lawton, Seattle, WA
December 7, 1951

Hello there, Mother and Dad. Just passing through the PX up here and I saw this recording machine to record your voice and send a letter home, so it just reminded me of the times I made a record before and sent it to you. Boy, do you remember when I was in high school and this fellow connected my voice in high school about the little mouse or something like that and the laugh we had about that one. Remember the one we took at Fort Bragg about the infiltration course and like that and how hard everything was and how rough it was?

Well, now I have a command of my own and many men are under me. Much of them or many of them as young and as innocent of this tired old, tough old world as I was myself. It makes it easier for me to see their problems and help them a little bit, help them get along. Even though it's a big responsibility for me and I'll do the best I can and take good care of them. Well, that's about all the time I have left so I'm gonna sign off. Love. Love a lot.