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DANIEL R. VL MER
SIST REGIMENT 4TH BATTALION
BARR. 125 CO. 173
U. S. N. T. S. BAINBRIDGE, MD.

Dear Mom + Pop,

It is Tuesday Morning. We got up at 5:30. Boy, do I like that. The reason this letter is sloppy is because I am writing it in my bunk. I wrote a card last night but didn't get a chance to send it so I won't bother now. My address is above. Hank is my bunk mate. I got an upper and he has the lower. We are lucky; we have a socket ~~to~~ plug a switch in if we want to. How about sending this small radio. You won't need it ~~now~~. Send it collect. Yesterday we had a strict physical and were issued our gear. Then we tramped a mile through mud to our ankles with our gear on our back. It weighs more than 50 lbs. Everybody yelled at us, "You'll be sorry," but they were only kidding us. This is a nice place and we get good meals. We're so hungry at chow time we don't care whether we eat mud or not. We've got a tough C.P.O (Chief Petty Officer) and I mean tough! We don't have much to do today except clean up and get accustomed to our barracks. Everybody calls each other mate

here. Everybody is friendly and you'd think we were friends
for years. We had a tough time getting to sleep last night
even though we were tired. Most of the fellows were restless.
They were making a lot of noise and the guard here couldn't
keep us quiet. Then the C. P. O. came in. "You birds don't want
to get up and take a hike do you?" he said. There wasn't any
noise after that but no one went to sleep. About an hour
later some one who had gone to the toilet came galloping
down the aisle in his bare feet. It sounded funny because
before that you could hear a pin drop. He yelled, "Hi Yo
Silver" and every one busted out laughing. Lucky for us the
C. P. O. was asleep. Bainbridge sure is a big place and
you can hear your echoes in the chow hall it's so big. I hope
you didn't forget to send that letter to Gene. Please
send me his address and some stationery because I think
we're going to be in this building quite some time. Well
I guess I'll see if I can borrow an envelope to put this
in. I had to burn the paper, too. Please write soon.
P.S. I hope you are all well. Tell all the
folks I was asking about them and I will
write to them as soon as I get time)

Love,
Rich

J. S.
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Free

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