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Letter from Fort Lewis, Washington, January 31, 1943

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31 Jan, 1943
Ft Lewis, WY

Dear Folks;

It's Sunday evening and quite late already but I'll get these few lines written. Had quite a strenuous day again today. We went out to the firing range early this morning and didn't come back again until after five o'clock. We fired the new cabinis today and find that we like them very well. They only weigh around 5 lbs and hold fifteen shells in the magazine. Since its gas operated all we need to do is pull the trigger. We shot at targets from 100, 200 & 300

yds. Slow fire went just fine but in our rapid fire we have to shoot 4 rds standing up and then reload a new magazine and go to either sitting or kneeling and fire four more rounds - all in 35 seconds. So you see you have to be fast.

Well training is going right along on schedule. My first two training Battalions finish their basic training this week and since we are still here we are starting them on a second four weeks training to be carried on as specialist training in one particular line of work.

The other day I received another big box of cookies cake and candy from Genevieve and I had just finished the box I got

from you folks & I'm really
keeping in supply.

Starting tomorrow in addition to my other duties I am going to attend a 2 hr school daily for Brigade Officers. This will give me an opportunity to learn a little more about the guns even though it will make me terribly busy.

Our cold weather has broken
up somewhat over here, of course
it still freezes hard in the morning
but the snow has gone. I'm
glad it's not as cold here
as it is back home.

So my first War Band
finally got home — I'm glad
you told me since I was
beginning to wonder if I

would ever get it. Well
you should be getting on a
month from now on. So far
I have bought eight.

Well I must close now and
get some rest. Hoping this
reaches you enjoying good
health I remain

Your loving
Son
Ralph