

9-19-1944

Queen, James C.

James C. Queen

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19 September 1944  
Time: 12:10

Dear Dr. Tate:

Here in Alabama during our few spare moments, we often think of Howard University and our various teachers and subjects that we had as A-12 students. Frequently we receive letters telling us of the progress of the students and the impressions that they are making upon students and teachers alike. We all wish them the best of luck.

Carl House, who is not with us, has just completed his 2nd term at Penn State. He made excellent marks with an average of 93 in all of his classes. In three of his classes, his was the highest average.

About a week and a half ago, we went to the classification building on the Fort. We were informed that we could not reenter into the program because we had had only one term as A-12 students. Those that had two terms were able to reenter the program after 15 weeks of their training was completed. The full basic training course last for 17 weeks. Already we are in the 9th week of our training.

The interesting part of our basic training is the way the classes are conducted. We go from class to class every hour. The procedure is a half hour of theory and a half hour of practical work. We have become almost skilled in the use of Infantrymen's weapons. Some most commonly used are the Rocket Launcher (Bazooka),

the Army Garand Rifle, the light .30 cal. Machine gun and the Carbine. The more familiar that one becomes with these weapons the more one realizes how we are able to make such remarkable progress in this war.

Not very long ago we learned that we would probably be kept at this Fort to assist in the training of new men that will come after our training is completed. One advantage in being a cadetman on the post is that it allows you to become more thorough in your training. Later on we plan to apply for Officers Candidate School. It shouldn't be hard because we are qualified both mentally and physically.

At the meeting that I have referred to previously in this letter at the classification building, there were approximately eight hundred white soldiers compared to two hundred colored soldiers. The majority was startling.

As a whole, the work here is rather hard. Any time at all we might be called upon to do any sort of duty. Rain or sunshine is no obstacle when a duty is assigned. Frequently we sleep out at night and I can assure you that this Alabama soil is no resting soil. Well Dr. Tate, duty calls once more and I must obey. So until a future time we remain as always,

"I know them of  
Promethians"

Your pupils,

Det. James C. Queen  
1st Lt. Donald R. Gordon