

San Juan, Puerto Rico
4 April 1963

Dear Parents,

I was very pleased to hear that the reading was such a success. The size of the audience and the "gross" are both surprising. The box office was obviously very good; it is also encouraging to see such initiative and cleverness bring some reward.

We are all growing rather discouraged from the regularity of the inspections to which we are being subjected. Yesterday Col. Thompson. Next Wednesday Gen. Bogart, Commander of the US Army, Caribbean, who is coming from Panama to visit us. A farewell parade on Thursday for our outgoing Commanding General, Antilles Command. Inspections and parades following that for our new Commanding General, Antilles Command. The weather is quite hot, and standing in ranks at attention for over an hour for in-ranks inspections is more than a drag. Then all foot lockers, wall lockers, etc. must be in inspection order, and out field equipment (tents, tent poles, shovels, field packs, canteens, mess kits, ropes, etc., etc.) must be arranged on the bunk according to all types of standards. Maintaining this equipment (removing the everpresent mold from metal parts, polishing, and so on) becomes very, very tedious. Somehow this Command is changing; formerly conditions were relatively pleasant. In addition, Headquarters is continually taking the trainees away from the English classes to paint, cut grass, etc. all over the post. So I don't know how many of the trainees in this cycle will pass the final English examinations - or will want to. However, none of this to anyone; the Army's ways are its own, and I am only questioning them among us.

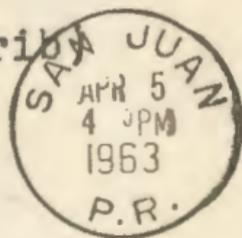
In spite of these distractions, I am writing with great regularity. It seems to be the only thing that keeps my mind occupied; I have never found writing to be so relaxing or so tranquilizing, and I still like what I am working on. Quite a bit has been completed already. Some of it, I think, is very funny.

The writing, incidentally, is making me save a great deal of money, something which I have heretofore not been able to do. But I do want to have a little money when I get out of here.

Love,

Ken

From: Sgt. John K. Toole
U.S. 54 232 809
Trng. Co. "A" - USATC (Carib
A.P.O. 851
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



Mr. & Mrs. John Toole
390 Audubon Street
New Orleans (18), Louisiana
U. S. A.