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A.C.C. Pvt. Ralph L. Minker, Jr. U. S. Army

[April 13, 1943]

Tuesday morning

Dear Bernice,

Well we're here. We pulled in about ten and after a brief snack were sent to the gymnasium where the eighty three who came here from Miami Beach will live for two weeks. At that time we will move into regular dorms as a group that is there now is going to move out.

There are about 500 A.C.C.'s here and 5,000 other soldiers at an air base about six miles away. The town seems like a very nice place and so does the college after a very brief look at each but the college does not look as well kept up as Dickinson.

We had quite a trip up! We left at 9:00 A.M. Saturday and that night hit Jacksonville. We then switched from the Seaboard to the Southern R. R. and got into Atlanta in the morning. We really shivered that first night but after that we had no trouble sleeping at all. We then switched to the Frisco Line of the Illinois Central which took us

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through Birmingham at noon, Jasper, Jackson (9:00 P.M.), Corinth, Cairo, Champaign and Chicago. (9:00 A.M.). First we saw all flat sandy Florida wastes, then hilly Georgia and Alabama red clay wastes. It was dark so we didn't get a chance to see anything of Kentucky or Tennessee. We missed our connections in Chicago. (There were two pullmans which went the whole trip with us.) so we had a seven hour leave there. It was really grand. Nothing it seems is too good for a soldier there. I saw Noel Coward's "In Which We Serve." It was excellent [sic]. And so we arrived in Sioux City this morning on the Milwaukee [sic] Road. (Chicago, St. Paul, Milwaukee [sic] and Pacific R. R.) The country here is hilly but barren as this is the foothills of the Black Hills.

By the way, could you send me Julia's picture? (the second one)

It's lunch time now so I'll sample the new mess.

Love,

Lee