When my group returned to Fort Hayes in late June or early July, there was still no room for us at Fort Benning. I suppose the "High Brass" became fearful that we would think we were civilians again if we were given additional furlough so we were sent to Camp Perry near Toledo, OH and along the shores of Lake Erie. We did not belong to any unit and did not have a training schedule. Our time was pretty much our own and the close order drill in which we engaged was of our own doing just to pass the time and stay in form. We had occasional K. P. duty and were expected to keep our barracks clean, but we had plenty of time for swimming and other leisurely activities. I was able to get a week-end pass into Port Clinton and Jean came up from Morgantown to he with me. She was able to get good bus connections and a bit of extra time off so we had a most enjoyable week-end together.

Some time in early August the good times finally came to an end. We were loaded into a "troop train" along with R.O.T.C. groups from two or three other colleges and sent to Fort Benning near Columbus, GA. Our train consisted of nothing but old rickety coaches. Each coach was just about filled so each of us had one seat and we travelled, ate and slept in it for the entire two long days. We seemed to travel through almost deserted countryside and saw practically no towns or landmarks that we could recognize. Our train must have had the lowest priority that could be assigned to a train because we seemed to stop and wait for a half-hour to an hour on a siding every time we met any kind of a train. It seemed that nobody ever waited for us to pass. We stopped approximately at meal times to take on bagged or boxed meals which were distributed to us in our seats where we ate them. We spent one night on the train but I doubt if any of us slept much.

My 17-week experience at Officer Candidate School was memorable for many reasons. We were all promoted to corporal upon our arrival there because that was a requirement for attending. The most impressive thing about the School was its size. Three classes were graduated and three new ones were started each week. Each new class had about 220 cadets enrolled which translates into a total of about 11,000 men in training at all times, less those who flunked out along the way. This casualty rate was extremely variable and depended primarily upon the need for new 2nd. Lieutenants at any given time.

When we arrived at Benning, each graduating class was commissioning close to 200 officers. When our class graduated seventeen weeks later, most classes were graduating between 50 and 75. Ordinarily the O.C.S. classes were composed of hand-picked soldiers from infantry line units: men with special qualities