Dear Uncle Herbert,

we have had two letters in the past week from a friend of ours at camp McClellan, parts of which we think you may find interesting. Our friend is the son of a late general in the N.Y. National Guard and comes from a family that is still active in civic affairs. He volunteered.

The first letter was written on April 19. "I thought about you..."
particularly last week when Governor Lehman reviewed our 27th Division.

One thing he said for us: he made it possible for us to have much needed training and equipment issued. They've told us right along that we couldn't have gas masks, nor tin helmets, nor leggings (sp. ?) of canvas, nor leggings (sp. ?) of canvas. But the day before our leave, the day before our leave, those articles were quickly reviewed and generously given us.

I wonder just how much else in the way of politics controls the training of the selectees. I'm afraid the inside story isn't a pleasant one to hear. The other letter came today:

"we are supposed to be"
motorized. Where the hell are the trucks, tanks, armored cars, motorcycles we need? Are they coming too in 1946?

We have one motorized Infantry Division in the U.S. It's at Ft. Benning, Ga. Hitler has 20 motorized Divisions in Greece.

I hope you won't mind my writing you this. I thought you would be interested in the frank comments of a soldier who went quite voluntarily, without any financial or emotional sacrifice, and who has always been liberal and favors the New Deal in his politics. I don't know how easy it is for the selected men to make their feelings known to persons in authority, but
these comments seem to show that equipment makes a difference to their morale. Our friend is 34 and has been in the army since January, so his remarks don't come from sudden imitation or immaturity.

With much love to you and Aunt Edith from both of us.

Phyllis.