

January 7, 1958

Dear Mr. Thayer:

I was so pleased and complimented by the excerpt of the letter you wrote your mother in January, 1918, that I asked Bobby Cutler for your address so that I might tell you personally what a lift your comments of so long ago gave me. It's difficult at any time of life to judge oneself, and I find it particularly hard to remember what I might have been like at twenty-eight. At any rate, it's nice to know that I did not make too bad an impression upon the Reserves at Fort Leavenworth!

With many thanks for your letting me have the original letter, and with best wishes for a fine New Year,

Sincerely,

Mr. Edward C. Thayer  
Exchange Building  
53 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

From a letter from Lieutenant Edward C. Thayer to his mother  
from Leavenworth, January, 1918:

Our new captain, Eisenhower by name, is, I believe, one of the most efficient and best Army officers in the country. He is a young West Pointer who has just arrived from instructing Bevo's\* at Oglethorpe . . . . To return to our captain, he is a corker and has put more fight into us in three days than we got in all the previous time we were here. He is a giant for build and at West Point was a noted football and physical culture fiend. He knows his job, is enthusiastic, can tell us what he wants us to do and is pretty human, though wickedly harsh and abrupt. He has given us wonderful bayonet drills. He gets the fellows' imaginations worked up and hollers and yells and makes us shout and stamp until we go tearing into the air as if we meant business . . . . The last of the week we had guard practice. We had a lot of fun, for the sentries got all balled up and Eisenhower kept sending different ones of us up to the sentries with all kinds of answers to their challenges to see if they knew how to handle the situation. The rest of us stood around and laughed and smoked. Every now and then Eisenhower would jump on us and say we were having too good a time, call us to attention and put us through the manual for five minutes, but you could see that he enjoyed it all too.

\* A term applied to Reserve Officers.

Excl Buddie  
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