



UNITED STATES ARMY

First Epistle to the Selectees

1. Lo, all ye miserable sinners, entering through the Gate of Induction into the Land of Khaki, hearken unto my words; for I have dwelt in this land for many months and mine eyes have witnessed all manner of folly and woe.
2. Verily have I tasted of the bitter Fruit of TS and drained the dregs of the Cup of Snafu:
3. Gird up thy loins, my son, and take up the olive drab; but act slowly and with exceeding care and hearken first to the counsel of a wiser and sadder man than thou;
4. Beware thou the Sergeant who is called First; he had a pleased and foolish look but he concealeth a serpent in his heart.
5. Avoid him when he speaketh low and his lips smileth; he smiles not for thee; his heart rejoiceth at the night of thy youth and thine ignorance.
6. He will smile and smile and work all manner of evil against thee. A wise man shuns the orderly room, but the fool shall dwell in the kitchen forever.
7. Unto all things there is a time; there is a time to speak and a time to be silent; be though like unto a stone in the presence of the superiors, and keep thy tongue still when they shall call for volunteers.
8. The wise man searcheth out the easy details, but only a fool sticketh out his neck.
9. Look thou with disfavor upon the newly made corporal; he prizes much his stripes and is proud and foolish; he laugheth and joketh much with the older noncoms and looketh upon the private with a frown;
10. He would fain go to OCS, but he is not qualified.
11. Know thou that the Sergeant of the Mess is a man of many moods; when he looketh pleased and his words are like honey, the wise KP seeketh him out and praiseseth his chow and laugheth much at his jests:



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12. But when he moveth with great haste and the sweat standeth on his brow and he curseth under his breath, make thyself scarce; for he will fall like a whirlwind upon the idle and the gold brick shall know his wrath.
13. The Supply Sergeant is a lazy man and worketh not; but he is the keeper of many good things: if thou wouldest wear well fitting raiment and avoid the statement of charges, make him thy friend.
14. He prizeth drunkenness above all things.
15. He careth not for praise or flattery, but lend him thy lucre and thy liquor and he will love thee.
16. Hell hath no fury like a Shavetail scorned: he walketh with a swagger and regardeth the enlisted man with a raised eyebrow: he looketh upon his bars with exceeding pleasure and loveth a salute mightily.
17. Act thou lowly unto him and call him sir and he will love thee.
18. Damned be he who standeth first in the line of chow and short stoppeth the desert cincheth the coffee.
19. He taketh from the meat dish with a heavy hand and leaveth thee the bony part.
20. He is thrice cursed, and all people, even unto the PFC, will revile him and spit upon him: for his name is called Chow Hound, and he is an abomination.
21. Know thou the Big Operator, but trust him not: he worketh always upon a deal and he speaketh confidentially.
22. He knoweth many women and goeth into town every night: he borroweth all thy money, yea, even unto thy ration check.
23. He promiseth to fix thee up, doeth it not.
24. Beware thou the Old Man, for he will make thee sweat; when he approacheth look thou on the ball: he loveth to chew upon thy posterior.
25. Keep thou out of his sight and let him not know thee by name: for he who arouseth the wrath of the Old Man shall go many times unto the Chaplain. Selah.