

Friday night

June 4, 1943

Dear Dad,

I had addressed this letter to you on Friday night only to stop there and attempt to put a long distance call home to you. It didn't get through so I'll write and hope that you are not worrying about the lack of news from me. You must forgive this and learn to expect it more and more as I get further along in my training. If anything should ever go wrong the army, a friend or myself will let you know all about it.

Yesterday I had my check flight, after a weeks delay due to high winds, and went through spins. I did fair on my check flight after the layoff but in the afternoon did much better. Layoffs seem to hurt. I went through a half dozen spins in a row, three turns each. First I just held on while Jorgenson flew one; then I followed through on one to the right and one to the left; then I flew the spins, with Jorgenson holding his stick, and his breath. It seems funny but I hardly felt the spins. What gets you is the pull out. In a real plane you black out for a second when you pull out of a spin but in the tub all that

you feel is your stomach being pushed in and your cheeks feeling flabby and deflated. I have trouble counting the number of turns we make as we spin but except for that a spin is relatively simple. First you cut off the motor and pull the nose up to a point about six inches above the horizon. Then, just as she stalls, you push the stick hard forward and hit the rudder, right or left depending on whether you want to make a right or left spin. You just topple over to a side and head down, all of the time rotating in a small circle. When you've had enough you hit the opposite rudder hard and pull back the stick. As you level off you put on the motor and climb back to 3000 feet so that you can do it over again.

I'll be shipping sometime between the eleventh and the twenty first, it seems now. Where? ? When that happens I'll have letters, magazines, camera and incidentals shipped home. Particularly I wish that you would read the last issue of the Dickinsonian which will be enclosed.

I'm sending Julia a gardenia corsage by wire for her graduation. I only got \$30 pay this month so I am keeping it all but next month I will get \$75 (flying pay) plus \$25 (for flying this month) plus \$6.50 (maybe \$13) (the U.S. furnishes flying insurance).
7 hours in the air — Love to all the family.
Lee