



PECOS ARMY AIR FIELD
PECOS, TEXAS

Sunday noon
November 7, 1943

Dear Dad,

I arrived here at Pecos late Thursday afternoon after an uneventful ride on the Southern Pacific and Texas and Pacific Railroads. I had a chance to look over the business districts of Tucson and El Paso during short stops and saw the Rio Grande "Creek" and Mexico on its far side.

All through my air crew training I have been warned, "Wait till you get to Blank if you think this is rough." Usually I have been rushed like mad for a month and then forgotten; every training program has been full, some trouble is experienced in tackling new experiences but probably the administration of the air crew training program causes much unnecessary trouble.

1. the quick and huge expansion of the air Forces without ^{enough time for} adequate preparation.
2. ^{stretched to the limit for} limited competent personnel.
3. class 44-C is just slightly more than double the size of class 44-A just
4. ^{supply and new} equipment limitations. ^{three months ago}

Pecos Army Air Field then is hit hard by these limitations as far as

equipment, cadet numbers and ^{full} preparation. But the officer personnel seems to be extremely adequate. Because of one officer acting as flight instructor for every six cadets, because of numerous ground school officers and because of quite a few student officers supplementing the normal tactical group there is much more contact between officers and men. Because of the teaching aspect and the importance of polishing men for combat, officer quality is high.

This is a big field. The flight line of two miles is filled five deep with wing tip to wing tip BT-13 and AT-17 planes. Besides cadets there is an equal number of permanent party. We stand formal retreat every night. Food is good, but sparse because cadet allowances have been cut to Gr. 1. in an effort to cut food consumption. Athletics strikes me as being especially fine. Teams of fifteen compete in leagues of touch football, softball, basketball and volleyball for squadron, group, class and post championships during the nine week stay here. The aim is to develop judgement, coolness and coordination. Our ^{flight} practice area extends about thirty miles in every direction and includes four auxiliary fields. Ground school subjects consist of radio, radio code, aircraft identification, instruments, navigation and meteorology. Cold nights, high winds, flat dustlands



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are features of this part of Texas.
We are on Central War Time.

That is a very general picture
of Pecos. If you have any questions
let me know.

(412
Jersey
Bourke)

My flying instructor is Lieutenant
Nolan of Trenton, New Jersey. He seems
like a very nice fellow. I was
disappointed in my flying however.
Too many asked for multi-engine
training so I was one of the
boys transferred to single engine.
This may have its benefits later
on however for I will have more
experience before I step up to
bigger stuff. At present I must
concentrate on the first half of
my training in BT-13s - transition
and mastery of fundamentals.

We sleep one hour more here
but spend most of our evenings
in ground school so letter writing
is going to be harder. I'll write
as often as I can but the family
will have to relay much of my news
to others.

In fact I have three hours of

ground school plus a ^{barracks} G.I. party ahead
of me ^{today} flight line orientation behind
me, ~~and~~ ^{but} no news of yesterday's foot-
ball results.

Yours,

Lee