

Saturday evening
October 21, 1944

Dear Mother,

I have just returned from radio ground school and in the hour remaining before 2100 lights out I must write several letters.

During the past ^{few} several days I have been almost totally occupied with a concentrated ground school introduction to the U.S.A. 8th Air Force, the ETO and air combat against Nazi Germany. (oxygen, frost bite, air-sea rescue, radio, engineering of operation, code, aircraft recognition, tactics, ditching, bail out, gunnery, prisoner of war, escape, weather, security, briefing, interrogation, intelligence, first aid, health and hygiene, combat flight.). My entire B-17 crew is to be checked out on the ground before flying.

But soon I will start flying again! I will fly

with a skeleton crew (pilot, co-pilot, engineer, radio operator) on practice missions during which I will be given flying checks (transition, night, formation, emergency). As veteran aircrews graduate from combat upon completion of thirty five missions I will ~~not~~ replace them. But practice missions will be scheduled during my entire tour of duty and on an off day I may ^{be} scheduled to slow time a plane (break in new engines.).

Today I received forwarded letters from Mr. Boykin and Daisy Wilson. I am waiting eagerly for your mail from home to catch up with me.

Love,

Lee