

**Folder 2: Ralph L. "Lee" Minker, Jr., April – June 1943**

**Army Air Corps cadet Pvt. Ralph Lee Minker is assigned to training at University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, after a brief stop in Sioux City, Iowa.**

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
April 10, 1943	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Lincoln, NE
Postcard from Lincoln letting the family know he had arrived.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday morning [April 13, 1943]	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Lincoln, NE
Gives his youngest sister a description of the long train trip, their arrival, and living arrangements, there are more than 5,000 soldiers there. Compares the campus to Dickinson [College]. Asks for Julia [Taylor's] picture.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday night [April 13, 1943]	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Lincoln, NE
Detailed time schedule of training and classes, welcome letter from Bernice.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday night [April 14, 1943]	Lee Minker	Shirley Minker	Lincoln, NE
Letters received, classes, physical education test, sorority dance and film he is sending home.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Saturday morning [spring 1943]	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
Schedule, advice about the garden. News of cadets using facilities at [Dickinson College].			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday afternoon [April 18, 1943]	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
Several days after the phone call. Plans for first flight training in the Piper Cub, list of things he needs, asks that they now use airmail. New state capitol building, Don L. Love Memorial Library. Excellent meals provided by home economics department.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday April 18, 1943	Lee Minker	Mr. [George] Herring	Lincoln, NE
Lee tells a friend of his parents about life in the U.S. Army Air Corps.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Monday noon April 19, 1943	Lee Minker	Shirley Minker	Lincoln, NE
A package arrives, asks if they are getting mother anything for Easter. Food rations are cut.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday night April 20, 1943	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Lincoln, NE
Package of food arrives, payroll, measles, flowers for Mother's Day, swimming requirements.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Thursday afternoon April 22, 1943	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Lincoln, NE
Disappointment there will be no furlough for a year, arrangements for pre-flight training. Report of 13 cases of scarlet fever. Questions about home, asks for Sunday Times and Saturday (Wilmington) Journal.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday evening April 25, 1943	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
Visit to Chancellor (Union College ) Schwartz's house. Schwartz was a friend of Rev. Minker referred to in a letter. GI haircut, Bob Hope movie.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday noon April 27, 1943	Lee Minker	Shirley Minker	Lincoln, NE
Questions about home, new schedule for classes, their Miami Glee Club is singing and marching.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Thursday noon April 29, 1943	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Lincoln, NE
List of needed items, plans to leave Lincoln for San Antonio on June 20 [later changed to Santa Ana, CA], their dorm "saturated" with Easter packages, general army life news.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Friday night April 30, 1943	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
Pay day of \$71.71, sending \$50 home, "gig" system of demerits, Military Ball on May 15.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Monday evening May 3, 1943	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
Boredom of guard duty, package from grandmother and letters from friends.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday night May 5, 1943	Lee Minker	Shirley Minker	Lincoln, NE
Responds to her news of Senior Ball, questions about Blue Rocks [baseball team], new class schedule. Identifies boys in the pictures he sent home [see scrapbook].			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Saturday noon May 8, 1943	Lee Minker	Ralph L. Minker	Lincoln, NE
Volunteered to set up at the Big Six Conference track meet, news of the fall of Africa. Believes there will be at least two more years of years. Japan number one danger now.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday night May 12, 1943	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Lincoln, NE
Received many letters from home, report of the Dickinson [College] Enlisted Reserve Corps. News of activities on the base, a dance, PT tests.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Saturday afternoon May 15, 1943	Lee Minker	Shirley Minker	Lincoln, NE
Reading the <i>Echo</i> [A.I du Pont school paper] which lists those in the service. Asks that they invite his favorite teacher, Mr. Yingst, to dinner.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Monday night May 17, 1943	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
Upcoming tests, recommends the book <i>He's in the Air Corps Now</i> by Graham and Kulack.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday night May 19, 1943	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Lincoln, NE
Minker & Stillwell, the two top ranked men, are transferred to Section D-1, training is advanced by a month. Cramming for finals.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Saturday noon May 22, 1943	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
I start flying Monday, report on next phases of training. Report of "night I shall never forget" as E section marched off to the station singing.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Monday night May 24, 1943	Lee Minker	Shirley Minker	Lincoln, NE
The excitement of the first flight, in a Piper Cub, comes across in Lee's poetic description of flight. He also provides technical details of what he is learning and the second flight.			
Names: Jorgenson [Minnesotan, flight instructor]			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Saturday noon May 29, 1943	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Lincoln, NE
Four hours in the air, the most advanced student. Report of everything he had learned – stalls, glides, climbs, etc. Comment about the mail, pictures enclosed.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday night June 2, 1943	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Lincoln, NE
No flying- hot wind. California-Pennsylvania mining dispute, reports from boys at Santa Ana. Will not be able to write as often when he leaves Lincoln.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Friday night June 4, 1943	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Lincoln, NE
Was not able to get through by phone. Details of check flight with Jorgensen and doing spins. Plans for shipping out soon. Report of flying pay.			
Names: Jorgensen [flight instructor]			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday night June 9, 1943	Lee Minker	Shirley Minker	Lincoln, NE
Congratulations on her high school graduation (A. I. du Pont HS), corsage for girlfriend Julia [Taylor], no flying due to rain, shipping as much home as he can, including their letters.			
Names: Wendell Wilkie			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Saturday morning June 12, 1943	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Lincoln, NE
Check flight, high washout rate in pre-flight, on alert for shipment, will try to call Monday night.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday evening June 16, 1943	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Lincoln, NE
The young soldier is lonely, away from home on his 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Worried that problems with his eyes will wash him out of pilot training. Writes regularly to 25 people. Assesses various professors at Dickinson [College].			

**Minker finishes University of Nebraska classes, turns 19 on June 16, leaves Lincoln on June 19 for train trip to Santa Ana Army Air Force Base for classification.**

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Thursday night June 24, 1943	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Santa Ana AAB, CA
Details of schedule and training at the base. Three days of tests and interviews to measure aptitude. Notes class prejudice of California boys against Japanese and Mexicans. Won't be able to write very often.			
Names: Joe DiMaggio, Merle Hapes, [sports stars] Larry Adler			

<b>Date</b>	<b>Writer</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Place</b>
Monday evening June 27, 1943	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Santa Ana AAB, CA
Finished tests, "feeling rather cocky." Concerned about night vision and depth perception. Terrific tension, 9 of 84 washed out. Sunday review with 15,000 men. Questions about home.			