

Folder 5: Ralph L. "Lee" Minker, Jr., January – March 1944

Pecos Army Air Base [AAFB], New Mexico, Class 44-C

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday noon January 2, 1944	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Pecos AAFB
Graduation festivities for Basic Training. Concerns over skill mastery required for Advanced training in the AT-17. Flight Office Act of 1942. Advance purchase of officer uniform for \$350.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday evening January 9, 1944	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Pecos AAFB
Advanced Flying Training to begin. Plans for March 12, 1944, graduation and assignment to transitional training.			
Note: Handwritten comment at the top of the page was made by the author in the 1990s.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Monday evening January 10, 1944	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Pecos AAFB
Description of town of Pecos. Advice about selecting a college. Thanks for Christmas gifts. Explains meaning of army rank.			
Note: Handwritten comment at the top of the page was made by the Lee Minker in the 1990s.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday noon January 16, 1944	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Pecos AAFB
Flying progress in AT-17, concern about work to master the plane. Description of the AT-17. No news about graduation and how to get home for furlough. Asks dad to purchase top-coat.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Thursday evening January 20, 1944	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Pecos AAFB
Counting the days until graduation. Details from lecture on future of the Air Corps and equipment. Planning for furlough.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday evening January 23, 1944	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Pecos AAFB
Frustrated with travel plans to get home. Required purchase of uniforms. Will begin night flying next week.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday evening January 30, 1944	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Pecos AAFB
Waiting to get a call through. Best man at wedding of Harold Sites. Wallets stolen in cadet area, lost his address book and pictures as well. Wants dad to help with purchase of required uniforms. Started formation and instrument flying.			
Names: Harold Sites and Wilma Wittenberger - wedding			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday evening February 1, 1944	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Pecos AAFB
Arrangements for officer's uniform with prices. Details of pay and expenditures.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday noon February 6, 1944	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Pecos AAFB
Full schedule for Sunday, amount of work explains lack of letter writing. Plans for graduation, Army's future plans for students. Record of hours as pilot and co-pilot, flew a low-level cross-country flight.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday noon February 8, 1944	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Pecos AAFB
Schedule does not permit time for a long distance call, please send roses to Julia [Taylor] for Valentine's Day.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Monday noon, February 14, 1944	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Pecos AAFB
Little time to write, travel arrangements and plans at home for furlough, desire to rest at home. Cross country night flying Pecos to Midland to Salt Flat.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Saturday afternoon February 19, 1944	Lee Minker	Bernice Minker	Pecos AAFB
Grounded due to bad weather, has 47 hours of Advanced Training, total of 195 pilot hours. Looks forward to hearing her sing.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday morning February 27, 1944	Lee Minker	Ralph L. Minker, Jr.	Pecos AAFB
Plans for getting home.			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Tuesday noon February 29, 1944	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Pecos AAFB
Weather preventing needed flying time, list of remaining flying requirements. Details of pay, cost of uniforms			

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Sunday evening March 5, 1944	Lee Minker	Ralph Minker	Pecos AAFB
Worried he will not pass instrument check. List of causes of anxiety throughout flight training. Details of March 12 graduation as a Second Lieutenant. Expects to be in Wilmington March 15, how he wants to spend his time. Has to leave by Monday for operational training. Eager to be at home.			

Note: Ralph "Lee" Minker was on furlough in Wilmington Delaware March 13 – 21, 1944

Date	Writer	Recipient	Place
Wednesday evening March 22, 1944	Lee Minker	Edna Minker	Dearborn RR Station, Chicago IL
Delay in route to Roswell, NM. Had a wonderful furlough, longs to see them again. Recognizes the importance of the job ahead.			
Note: Handwritten notation added by author in the 1990s.			