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Letter from Commandant of Santa Ana - selection as a Pilot

Headquarters Santa Ana Army Air Base Office of the Commanding Officer Santa Ana, California

13 July 1943

Dear Mr. Minker,

It is with great pleasure that I notify you that your son, Ralph L. Minker, Jr., has been selected by the Classification Board for Pilot training in the United States Army Air Forces. I congratulate both you and him on this achievement.

He will soon be transferred to one of the Army Air Forces West Coast Training Center elementary flying schools and will then begin his flight training. The course of instruction which he will pursue throughout the flying schools is thorough, intensive and the best that our Country can give to fit him for his future duties and responsibilities as a member of the Army Air Forces. Upon successful completion of his flying training, he will receive his wings and the rating of airplane Pilot.

In either war or peace, a Pilot occupies a position that requires sound judgment, a keen and alert mind, a sound body and the ability to perfectly coordinate mind and body in the flying of the airplane. It is imperative that the men who fly our military aircraft possess these qualifications, for upon their skill will depend in large measure the success of our war effort.

It is my hope that you will derive great satisfaction from your son's selection for Pilot training, and that his future career in the Army Air Forces will be one of continuing success and service.

Sincerely yours,

W.A. Robertson Colonel, Air Corps, Commandant and Base Commander.

[Ralph attached the Aviation Cadet Insignia, most likely from his uniform.]

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