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Monday night May 24, 1943

Dear Shirley,

I've flown! . . . This morning at ten I was the second of the new E section to go into the air. For forty five minutes I experienced a sensation that differed from anything I've ever experienced before. It's hard to describe, but there seems to be nothing at all around you - you're floating in midair, but with the awful roar of the Franklin 65 H.P. engine in your ears. The ground looks just as if it were a picture by Stephen Curry.

We rode out to the Lincoln Airfield on a rickety old bus at 8:00 A.M. Then the 84 of us of sections E-1 and E-2 were sorted out and given instructors. Mine is a Minnesota Swede - Jorgenson - and seems to be a swell fellow. He has three other pupils in section E-1 and four others in section E-2. My three companions from section E-1 are quite a cross section - Henry Lee, a San Francisco Chinese boy, John Schneider, from Washington,

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Edwin P. Dougherty, from Philadelphia.

I went up in Cub number seven and after climbing to 300 feet headed off to practice area number four where the instructor leveled out and explained the elements of flying. After that he gave me the controls and I flew the Cub for a while. It differs from driving a car in that there is no surface to ride upon and wind blows you around. The wind was going at fifteen miles from the west and so it was very bumpy. As a result I had an attack of air sickness.

At 4:00 P.M. in the afternoon I went up again, with some premonition, but felt good the whole time. Jorgenson said that the first bad feeling might have come from first time nervousness and that if it wasn't so necessary to get us through our course they wouldn't even have sent us up in such rough weather at the beginning of our course. Jorgenson showed me 90° and 180° turns when flying level or gliding or climbing with 30° or 45° banks. He also put me through rigorous coordination exercises --- / --- \ --- so that after forty five minutes I really began to get the hang of it all.

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So much for that.

Enclosed you will find the pictures - marked as you wish. Those boys are all in either Ohio or South Carolina except for Charles Hammel who is in Section E-2.

How about the Phillies! I see that Hagerstown is still Wilmington's big rival. That gasoline shut down must really hurt Dad and Mr. Baker.

Today I got a letter from Daisy and one from Glen Tisdale along with one from Mother.

Cassel borrowed my U.S. History when I was called up. He used it for practice teaching.

Did Mr. Hyde like Bill's picture?

I paid for a Microcosm and am supposed to get one but have not seen one. Would you ask Howell about it?

It was good to hear about the garden.

Rechange my address. They have now decided to let old addresses stand so send my mail to section C-1 again.

My birthday is coming soon but there isn't much in the line of presents that I want this year.

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Maybe the family could send me a good watch though. That is one thing that I will need soon — water proof, luminous dial, unbreakable crystal and accuracy plus so that it can take a beating and still be reliable.

Love,

Lee