

1

Thursday afternoon

July 22, 1943

Dear Shirley,

I have just finished a math test on three years of high school and college algebra. It took us only three days to cover the subject, and have as a surprise a free moment.

For about a week now the weather has become progressively hotter so that right now I am parboiled. One reason for this is the disappearance of the morning fogs which we had when we first got here. But it really hasn't rained yet.

Lessons: We are to have one more week of math, including two tests, before we enter three weeks of physics. One reason for our speed it [sic] that only the necessary material is taught. Naval Identification and Maps and Charts are fairly easy. Radio code is the hardest subject. At present I have to struggle to get five words a minute with only twenty letters while latter [sic] I must receive eight words a minute including numbers. Latter [sic] we will get Blinker Code as well. Aircraft Identification is also hard. We have had all U.S. Navy planes and are now starting on U.S. Army planes. These will be followed by British planes. We finish gunnery next week and will probably go to the range to fire Colt 45 Automatics and Thompson Sub-Machine guns, the guns we will carry on our person and in the plane. The course has been entirely introductory theory. P.T. is really rough. The other day we ran the 440 obstacle course — Uh! Besides the regular obstacle there is the track, soft ankle deep sand. Most of our instructors are old S.C. or U.C.L.A. athletes and very good fellows. Our teachers are men selected from California schools and given rank. Gunnery is taught by Air Force Gunners. Naval Identification is taught by a naval architect who was rejected by the navy for bad eyes. All in all they are an efficient and well trained lot.

2

It looks as if I will get M.M. this Sunday again and on Sunday, August 8, guard duty. That was to be my first week-end off too. I hope I can get into L.A. at least once before I leave for ? It will be a good change even though L.A. and Hollywood are immensely over-crowded and money has to be spent like water. There are over 500,000 service men within a hundred mile radius of L.A. you see.

Don't expect the pictures too soon please.

That was surely a nice article about daddy. I am glad somebody else appreciates all the work he has done on Civilian defense.

I am not getting the church calendar any more. If you haven't sent all the socks and underwear I had, send it now. If you have sent it all, forget it because I can get it here very cheaply. I would like you to pick up a light shoe brush and two shoe polishing cloths for me as well as a brass polishing cloth. Don't try sending cookies this distance. Write more often please.

Jim Ham leaves for ? Tuesday. I hope he makes it but Primary will wash 30% at least. Then you are lost because you cannot leave the Air Corps and probably won't get a chance at gunner, Bombardier or Navigator for quite some time.

I had to fold this letter for drill. I just got letters from Julia, Daisy and Ralph Lower (Marine V-12 at F. and M.) Supper and G.I. party are coming up so I'll have to close.

Love,

Lee