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Sunday evening

August 8, 1943

Dear Bernice,

You have no doubt already examined the tropys [?] from my first weekend pass to L.A. Here's the story.

After P.T. Saturday afternoon we showered and reported for inspection by Lieutenant Kemp. At 4:15 we were heading (Charles Hammel and I) for the buses at the Baker Street Gate. These busses [sic] take three hours or more to get to L.A. because of the demand on Saturdays but taxis or station wagons or even army trucks cannot be used for transportation instead. Therefore the permanent party men on the base get a carload of cadets, charge \$2.00 and head for L.A. I took a clipper and got at the Biltmore Hotel in an hour. It was full; every hotel was full. In fact there were only Y or Elks dorms in all L.A., Beverly Hills or Hollywood. So at 3:00 A.M. I returned to the L.A. Pacific Electric Station and caught a ride back to the base in much the same manner as I had coming in.

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I ran up a \$5.00 taxii [sic] bill looking for lodging but at the same time got a general idea of what the mushroomed mass of the three cities was like. It is every bit as congested as Washington and servicemen are everywhere. At 8:30 we grabbed a milkshake and entered the Paladium. It was breathtaking. One gets an impression of a big and tasteful hotel—the appointments blend perfectly with the living room furniture and rugs; there are two dining balconies completely surrounding the big dance floor; but the lighting is the real distinction, they play with it like they do at Longwood. It is the best place I have ever seen or heard of for a dance hall of distinction. Jimmy Dorsey played in great style.

Next I went for refreshment at the Brown Derby. Gene Tierney and George Raft were there at the same time. Then I went to the Hollywood Canteen. In reality this is just a floor show of an hour and a half during which time you can eat, drink, dance and be merry. Kay Kyser and his band held the entertain-

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ment together. I got Ish Kibible's [sic] autograph for you. I danced with Hedy Lamarr to the tune of "Stardust" and got a sandwich from Patricia Morrison. Other places of interest and entertainment were filled or closed by now so I headed back. Other places of interest I saw were—Grauman's Chinese Theatre,

Chinatown, Earl Carrol's, Ciro's, Trocadero, Morocambo, Beverly-Wilshire, Fox Studios, N.B.C. and L.A. City Hall, however.

There is a lot to do but passes are such that you have to start back to the base by 9:00 A.M. Sunday morning in order to make parade.

Tell Dad that I mailed the insurance policy.

Talking of furnace shortages. Every barracks here has a wonderful furnace unit but except for a very few instances none of them have been used during S.A.A.A.B.'s first seventeen months.

I'll send my picture sometime this week.

Love,

Lee