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United States Army Air Force

Sunday afternoon October 10, 1943

Dear Shirley,

I just finished listening to the Yanks beat the Cards by 2 to 1 in the fourth game of the World Series. It looks as if the Yanks will revenge last year. From all the reports Creighty really went to town against Michigan yesterday. The Notre Dame - Army game with two great T formations ought to be tops this year. Do you get to see any sports in Williamsport?

I think that I will have my roughest check this week — the Army Forty Hour Progress Check. I hope my luck holds out. I'll have a lot to practice in preparation for I now have accrobatics [sic] - loops and slow and snap rolls. Too much precision is not expected but I must know the how of it in preparation for future training. A favorite trick of check pilots is to call a forced landing when you are on your back in a slow roll. I am using a new pen for this letter because my old one fell from my pocket during a loop.

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Last week we concentrated on accuracy landings. We had to make five solo landings for grading of 90° stage, 180° stage and 90° power stage.

(Diagram on left with these commentaries):

90° stage

cut power and start glide at X land between O (stage house) and fence

180° stage

same as 90° stage except for a longer glide

same pattern as 90° stage except that X is a mile instead of 1/2 mile out and partial power is used to land between hurdles at Z and the stage house

traffic pattern to right same for left when not shooting stages for shifting wind patterns shift so that you land and take off into the wind.

I wish you would exchange my letters with home and visa versa unless we are discussing something personal. That way I hope to send more news.

I had a letter from Daisy and Julia today.

I hope my biology helps you out. Don't let the volume frighten you. From your description you have a very nice setup.

Love,

Lee