

1

United States Army Air Force

Wednesday evening October 13, 1943

Dear Dad,

I have a moment in which to write before falling out for navigation class. We will be filing mock cross country briefs every night now in preparation for the short fifty mile hop and back which we will make while in primary and for the many longer hops further in our training.

Quite a few of the Stearman's are being overhauled this week and as a result my hours are building up slow. Total hours: 35:25; solo: 12:20. At present I am in the midst of one of those periods in which maneuvers [sic] seem to become worse instead of better. Some of the reason may be that I have become overconfident after proving that I could fly; some may be because of the normal leveling out of the progress check curve; most of all though the disease of flight fatigue brought on by homesickness after eight months and the ever stricter monotony of military life tends to make me, and all Cadets, sick of it all.

2

Yesterday I received a letter from Mick Zographone. He has been an Aviation Cadet studying meteorology at Washington University, St. Louis. A Colonel went to inform the Washington Cadets that their training would stop in March and that they would have to choose between becoming Aviation Students (Air Crew) or G.I.s unassigned. Mike is going to try for the Air Crew but many are not eligible because of physical reasons. (Meteorology Cadets had lower requirements, many had been rejected by the Air Crew.) It seems as if there was quite a waste of manpower, money, time and facilities involved.

A financial explanation:

An Aviation Cadet receives \$75.00 a month pay plus \$1.00 a day food allowance and \$1.25 a day lodging allowance. The government keeps up a cadets insurance but bond purchases and miscellaneous other charges, if any, (breakage, etc.) are deducted from his pay. (I spend \$12.50 a month on war bonds.) It so happens that Hayward and Conneley (contractors to Southwestern Airways for Thunderbird) charge only \$1.15 a day for lodging. Thus I make \$3.00 during a thirty day month on my lodging allowance. Various other discrepancies [sic] will occur during my

3

training so that as a cadet my monthly pay will average \$83.30 without deductions. I purchased the last bond as a part of the Arizona campaign for the third bond drive. I spend less here than I did at Santa Ana, near L.A.

I hope you said hello to Polly for me. Is she living with her Mother again?

How did the track meet go? Mother wrote that you were golfing with Dr. Johns and Mr. Montgomery Monday. Are you at last taking a little time for exercise? How is Mr. Montgomery these days? I can remember when I used to cady [sic] for you several years ago when the three of you and Uncle Marion would go out to the duPont Country Club.

I wish I could have seen and heard Bernice when she joined the senior choir Sunday. Is Shirley going to be able to continue music training at Williamsport?

Say hello to everybody for me.

Yours,

Lee