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Pecos Army Air Field Pecos, Texas

Sunday noon November 7, 1943

Dear Dad,

I arrived here at Pecos late Thursday afternoon after an uneventful ride on the Southern Pacific and Texas and Pacific Railroads. I had a chance to look over the business districts of Tuscon [sic] and El Paso during short stops and saw the Rio Grande "Creek" and Mexico on its far side.

All through my air crew training I have been warned, "Wait till you get to Blank if you think this is rough." Usually I have been rushed like mad for a month and then forgotten; every training program has been full, some trouble is experienced in tackling new experiences — but probably the administration of the air crew training program causes much unnecessary [sic] trouble.

1. the quick and huge expansion of the Air Forces without enough time for adequate advance preparation.
2. stretched to the limit for competent [sic] personnel.
3. Class 44-C is just slightly more than double the size of class 44-A just three months ago
4. supply and new equipment limitations.

Pecos Army Air Field then is hit hard by these limitation as far as

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equipment, cadet numbers and full preparation. But the officer personnel seems to be extremely adequate. Because of one officer acting as flight instructor for every six cadets, because of numerous ground school officers and because of quite a few student officers supplementing the normal tactical group there is much more contact between officers and men. Because of the teaching aspect and the importance of polishing men for combat, officer quality is high.

This is a big field. The flight line of two miles is filled five deep with wing tip to wing tip BT-13 and AT-17 planes. Besides cadets there is an equal number of permanent party. We stand formal retreat every night. Food is good, but sparse because cadet allowances have been cut to G.I. in an effort to cut food consumption. Athletics strikes me as being especially fine. Teams of fifteen compete in leagues of touch football, softball, basketball and volleyball for squadron, group, class and post championships during the nine week stay here. The aim is to develop judgement, coolness and coordination. Our flight practice area extends about thirty miles in every direction and includes four auxillary [sic] fields. Groud [sic] school subjects consist of radio, radio code, aircraft identification, instruments, navigation and meteorology. Cold nights, high winds, flat dustlands

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are features of this part of Texas. We are on Central War Time.

That is a very general picture of Pecos. If you have any questions let me know.

My flying instructor is (the Jersey Bounce) Lieutenant Nolan of Trenton, New Jersey. He seems like a very nice fellow. I was disappointed in my flying however. Too many asked for multi-engine training so I was one of the boys transferred to single engine. That may have its benefits later on however for I will have more experience before I step up to bigger stuff. At present I must concentrate on the first half of my training in BT-13s — transition and mastery of fundamentals.

We sleep one hour more here but spend most of our evenings in ground school so letter writing is going to be harder. I'll write as often as I can but the family will have to relay much of my news to others.

In fact I have three hours of

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ground school plus a barracks G.I. party ahead of me today, flight line orientation behind me, but no news of yesterday's football results.

Yours,

Lee