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Pecos Army Air Field Pecos, Texas

Friday evening November 26, 1943

Dear Mother,

An early morning Texas cloud burst turned Pecos Field into a quagmire and caused the cancelling of flying. Yesterday a heavy fog caused all ships to be grounded. Lt. Blacow, meteorology instructor, explained that this was all caused by the clockwise rotation of air in a high pressure region, over the Mississippi valley out over the Gulf and back over West Texas, and its condensation upon reaching the nearby Davis Mountains. This seemingly untexas weather occurs frequently during the winter months. The result is that we must now fly on Sundays.

I now have had four hours of instrument flying and am able to take off, climb, glide, turn and regulate my speed. I get the queerest of sensations at times of climbing,

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diving or turning. Then I look at my artificial horizon, altimeter or directional gyro and find that my inner ear and my muscle sense are wrong. I fly under a black cloth canopy in the rear cockpit while my instructor, Lieutenant Nolan, sits in front and keeps me on even keel. By December 5, we are supposed to have 37 hours of transition and instruments. My time is average — fifteen hours to date.

I received your letter from New York and a letter from Mr. Boykin today. I wish I could have been with you all for Thanksgiving. If I go to twin-engine advanced [sic] training I will probably go to Marfa, near El Paso, have a ten day furlough and go to operational in Texas. If I remain in single engines I will probably go to Luke, near Phoenix, get a ten day furlough and then operational training in P-47s in New England or in P-51s in the midwest. So I should be home about March 15, 1944.

The dentist could only find one wisdom tooth so the agony is postponed. Really I didn't feel a thing on the first one. The doctors, dentists and nurses are all tops.

Could you send me the addresses of Dr. Edgar, John Curlett, Charles Bossert, Bob Cassel and Stan Wilson. I've lost contact with them. If I have any old socks or underwear left please send it. Don't exceed a dozen pair of each. If you must get it new put it in the Christmas package. Also a box for writing paper and odds and ends. Light but strong and full of peanut butter balls.

Love,

Lee