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Pecos Army Air Field Pecos, Texas

Monday evening December 20, 1943

Dear Bernice,

Today we cadets were permitted to indicate our choice for Advanced Flying Training. These choices will be weighted with recommendations by our instructors and the army needs-of-the-moment in assigning us for future training. I asked for B-26 medium bombardment, B-25 medium bombardment and Air Transport, in that order. I will soon know the result for Basic training ends January 7, 1944 and Advanced training begins on the ninth.

But then I am not yet through Basic notwithstanding my 54 flying hours; only seventy hours are necessary. I have yet to pass my transition check and one hour more of dual instruction in formation and accrobatics [sic]. But I should

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get by okay. I had an hour of formation yesterday (Saturday) and I must say that it is the most exacting as well as the most fun of any of my flying so far. Never must your eyes waver from the leader and always you must keep the formation intact from the moment you take off to the moment you land.

I am afraid I won't have my full time in by Christmas as I had hoped for I am being held down while flu patients and others catch up in their time. In fact, I have had time to tackle — "Building the British Empire" by James Truslow Adams.

Nobody can guess what time is to be given us this weekend but I still hope to get to El Paso for a day. Juarez, Mexico, (across the river) will be visited too, I hope. They say you can pick up nylons so I'll see what I can do —

Christmas cards and letters have come from Aunt Flossie, Uncle Marion, John Curlett, Jeff, Mike Houlihan, Miss Webster and Grandmother Jones. No package has come yet but that is probably because of the late mail rush. Save Mrs. Dexter's check for me. I'll try calling on Sunday. Until then — have a good time at the formal and on Christmas.

Love,

Lee