



UNITED STATES ARMY

Sunday noon  
January 2, 1944

Dear Dad,

I have just finished lunch and just dressed in my class A uniform in preparation for the graduation festivities of the last and largest Basic class of cadets. We are supposed to fall out at 1300 and march to the ramp. There among the old BTs we will listen to Colonel Barrett speak and then pass in review.

It scarcely seems possible that I am ready to start Advanced Flying Training — that only two months away are a ten day graduation furlough, a pair of silver

wings and an officers commission in the United States Army Air Forces.

But there is plenty of hard work ahead of me before graduation day. I must fly over 100 hours in the AT-17. The big battle will be in the transition from single engine to double engine operation; half of my time will be as co-pilot in the comfortable five place cabin; night, formation, instrument and cross country flying will be accented along with fifteen hours of Link trainer.

Early in our Advanced training we will take mental exams. The results of these exams plus the material from each cadet's service record will determine who



is to be commissioned a Flight Officer or a Second Lieutenant of those who enlisted after July 16, 1942. Class 44-C is the first class to have fifty percent under the Flight Officer Act. Those who enlisted before July 16, 1942, will automatically be commissioned as Second Lieutenants.

Sometime next week we are to be given another 64 physical examination.

During the first week of Advanced we are supposed to order our officer's clothing. At the Post Exchange we are measured and then asked

which articles we wish to purchase. When the order is finally placed the ordering cadet gives the P.X. a promissary note which will be paid for in full out of the \$250.00 uniform allowance of each cadet. The uniforms are delivered just before graduation; if a cadet is eliminated the contract is torn up. The uniforms here are of a serviceable, but not the best, quality and the selection is poor. As a result most of the boys are purchasing a minimum of clothing here. The rest they hope to buy while on furlough or at some future lease. I don't know too much about the requirements but a complete outfit is supposed to cost up to \$350.00. Pink and Green



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shirts and pants, officer's  
bouse and cap, coat, white  
silk scarf, shoes and  
accessories are required. It  
might be a good thing if you  
sort of kept an eye open  
around Wilmington. One article  
the coats sold here are short  
coats. I would like a regular  
length grey topcoat (maybe  
reversible) which would be  
serviceable in civilian life.  
Please do not buy anything  
without checking with me  
first at least.

Say hello to everybody  
for me.

Yours,

Lee