

1

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

2

wings and an officer's 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

3

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 G4 physical examination.

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

4

which articles we wish to purchase. When the order is finally placed the ordering cadet gives the P.X. a promissory 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 base. I don't know too much about the requirements but a complete outfit is supposed [sic] to cost up to \$350.00. Pink and Green

5

shirts and pants, officer's bouse [sic] and cap, coat, white silk scarf, shoes and accessories [sic] 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