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United States Army Air Forces

Tuesday evening February 1, 1944

Dear Bernice,

It has rained here in the western desert of Texas for two days without a letup. Naturally all flying has been called off but it was quite a surprise when Major Strayer announced an open post from noon Tuesday to noon Wednesday.

This afternoon I made final arrangements concerning my officer's uniform. Pertinent data:

Dark Green Blouse (Model Shop) \$52.50 Dark Green Trousers (MS) \$22.50 Dark Green Shirt (Post Exchange) \$10.00 Pink Shirt (PX) \$10.00 Pink Trousers (PX) \$12.00 Dark Green Crusher Cap (PX) \$6.00 Dark Green Flight Cap (PX) \$1.75 Grey Trench Coat (MS) \$ 65.00 Misc. (Bars, wings, insignia, ties, belt) (PX) \$10.00

Total for Basic Winter Uniform — \$189.75

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The prices are outrageous but there is no choice but to buy. That is why I have asked Dad to look around for summer uniforms. You may tell him that he can forget about looking for a trench coat or a dark green blouse. I will need a summer suntan blouse though, socks and the complete summer uniform. When I get home we can take inventory but I believe I am just about set for underclothes, shoes, flying equipment, toilett [sic] articles, etc.

I laughed heartily at "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" this afternoon. There was a really outstanding short subject in the show: "This is America — Reformatory". The short preached no complex, lengthy and/or boring sermon but pictured completely and pertinently the progressive South Michigan State Reformatory.

Class 44-B will graduate from Pecos Advanced Flying Training School on Tuesday afternoon, February 8, 1944. I will study carefully — 1. various

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assignments; 2. furlough lengths; 3. transportation facilities; 4. number of Flight Officers; 5. etc.

Monday I was paid \$63.43. I had exactly \$3.00 at the time. At graduation time I will receive of approximately \$125.00 plus a \$250.00 uniform allowance from which I must pay out almost \$190.00. Between now and graduation I will

spend \$10.00; Today I spent \$15.00 on a new walett [sic] and various toilett [sic] articles. If I have laid aside a surplus since purchasing my last war bond that surplus will be refunded as officer's must buy bonds under another plan than that used for the men. (more paper! more work!) I should have about \$225.00 from which to purchase transport home, have a furlough, buy a summer uniform, purchase transport to my transition

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base and last a month, until pay day.

Remind Mother to send my addresses as soon as possible.

Congratulations for upsetting Vocational. Maybe AI will start rolling now.

Take care of yourself and study hard.

Love,

Lee