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United States Army Air Forces

Monday noon

February 14, 1944

Dear Mother,

I have so little time for letter writing that often I forget to thank you and the rest of the family for your letters and packages. Please excuse me for truly there is nothing that I look forward to any more than mail from home.

Your train schedule came this morning; it seems alright. Where will I have to change trains; do you think that I will be able to get connections without delay. I wish that you would write the New York office concerning airplane reservations for then we will get double action. If you write mention that I am graduating

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at Pecos with Aviation Cadet Class 44-C because they can estimate the time of arrival at Big Springs and they get advance dope about exact graduation time. (A recent rumor says that graduation will be the ninth. So—).

Your proposed trip to New York sounds like a lot of fun but I would like to be in Wilmington most of Sunday so that I may see friends who may get home over the weekend and friends in church. And I really would like to attend a beautiful church service at Grace again. Maybe Dad and I can visit Dickinson and Williamsport one day. But most of all I just wish to live and rest with you all, visit old friends, see the Blue Bombers maybe and so on.

Yesterday we spent an hour in selecting and ordering graduation announcements,

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officer's cards and personal 201 files. I ordered twenty announcements at ten cents each and one hundred cards at \$2.75. The 201 file costs five dollars and contains a complete and official record of each officer's army career — service, duties, achievements [sic], flying time.

Saturday night we flew a cross country of three hours from Pecos to Midland to Wink to Salt Flat to Pecos. As soon as we returned we went up for an hour pilot and an hour co-pilot night formation. Finally we finished at about five in the morning. We slept until two Sunday afternoon, got up, ate and

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went to the flight line. There was a dust storm raging though and as we couldn't fly we just sat and talked in the ready room. Finally, at nine Sunday evening, we were allowed to leave. The overabundance of such stupidity in the army is disgusting! It will take us most of this week to finish night flying but then we can concentrate on instruments, the one difficult phase of Advanced Flying Training.

Love,

Lee