

1

U.S. Air Force

Monday evening

July 3, 1944

Dear Shirley,

It has just finished raining and I am in my tent — B-6 — clothed only in my modesty, sweating and writing.

The best news, and most important, tonight is that I received my shipping orders this morning. I will take operational training in Gulf Port, Mississippi, leaving here Friday night of this week and arriving the next day. Gulf Port is supposed to be a good base, midway between New Orleans, Louisiana, and Mobile, Alabama. I will have a chance to see yet another corner of the United States.

This morning I met my co-pilot. Second Lieutenant Arthur D. Rohlof Ann Arbor, Michigan. He seems to be tops. I will

2

write you more about him, and the rest of the crew which will be assigned latter [sic] this week, in future letters but here are a few facts about him — about my build, brown hair, good looking, 21, single, sophomore pre-dental student from Michigan State.

Yesterday four of us went to St. Petersburg for the day. We swam in the HOT Gulf of Mexico; I now have dipped into all three seas on the borders of our country. St. Pete seems to be a very nice residential town, chiefly for older folk, spread out. It contrasts sharpley [sic] with Tampa, business city, cigar center, Spaniards and Italiens [sic].

I received my birthday package only to find that ants had eaten into its contents. Thanks anyway.

Tell Mother to please include my swimming trunks and your present of writing paper in her next package.

Write and let me know how you are and what you are doing (patrol, Brandywiners, etc.)

Ruth is engaged to Ken by the way. HO, HUM!

Love,

Lee