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Friday afternoon

August 25, 1944

Dear Mother,

Please excuse me for not writing more often but please don't worry when I do not write. I am in fine shape even though the Air Forces leave me little spare time to let you know.

Tonight I am to fly from 2000 to 0300 on a night celestial navigation mission to Evansville, Indiana [sic], and return. That means no sleep until at least 0500 Saturday morning which means that Saturday will not be much of a day off. Then we fly at 0300 Sunday morning.

While in B-17 operational training each crew is required to log a minimum of 150 to a maximum of 195 flying hours. At present our crew has flown a total of 117 hours and is high for the section. The last couple

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weeks of training coming up will see the section cramming to complete the schedule.

Nobody here knows what the future will hold but certain facts stand out. (1) B-17s are now fighting only in Europe (2) B-17 production is down to almost nothing except for some replacements (3) the war in Europe should end this winter (4) armed might must be shifted to the Pacific and Chinese areas after the fall of Germany (5) veterans will return to the States after the fall of Germany (6) an occupation AAF of 15,000 planes is to be based in Europe. We here are curiously waiting for orders. We feel that we have trained enough; We wish to help win this war.

Thank you for sending the family picture taken at the Iceland in New York. It came out very well. I would like to keep it if I may.

Enclosed you will find the receipts of two \$100.00 money orders which you can trace, if you have not received them already. A \$50.00 allotment check will come to you the first of next month and I will again send you a \$100.00 money order.

Love,

Lee

P.S. I saw Dragon Seed last night. It was very good.