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Wednesday noon

September 6, 1944

Dear Mother,

By the time you receive this letter you and the girls will probably be chocolate brown from the rays of the seashore sun; Shirley's nose will be beginning to peel. I hope you have favorable weather during your vacation. I know the rest and relaxation of a week at Rehobeth will do you all good before the start of winter activities. I wish that Dad would take a break too for he is in a rut.

I am glad to hear that Shirley is returning to college this year. I think she made a wise decision. When does Bernice begin living at Tower Hill School?

Do you realize that three years ago this September I entered Dickinson College and that last year at this time I was just beginning Primary Flight Training at Thunderbird Field, Phoenix, Arizona? It seems much longer. These years have been a great experience - I have learned new subjects in school and how to fly high in the sky, I

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have seen new places, met new people and observed different ways of living. As yet I don't know what changes will result or have resulted in me. I hope that I can make you proud of me.

Operational training still progresses uneventfully but it is scheduled to end September 22, 1944. As yet I do not know what the future will bring but the glorious victories of the Allied Armies will command us.

I went to the dentist this morning - he took out all my old fillings and put in new ones. ??? I then had my teeth cleaned.

While waiting for the dentist (yes, in the army too) I read the July Better Homes and Gardens. In one of your recent letters you asked what should be done to/with the home garden this fall. Why not do a complete overhauling? We always seem to have some good parts to the garden but on the whole, especially past July, it begins to appear seedy - because it is too big compared to the time and labor available to work it. Why not concentrate on flowers and shrubs framing the house - the garage garden, the perennial bed, the bushes. Plant an iris border around the entire garden

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(leaving space for a later blooming flower in front or behind); cut the back garden drastically and lay it out in a new pattern with fresh plants and those old plants that are vigorous - some phlox, platysodn (?), lemon drops. Chuck out ragged robin, and early and late mums plus poor roses and overcrowded shrubbery. Prune hydrangeas after foliage drops.

(He drew a diagram of garden changes and planting areas.)

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I waited for Dick Rhoads at the Markham Hotel one Sunday evening but he did not meet me. I then wrote and suggested the following Sunday but as I received no reply I assumed that he had shipped. Watkins is coming along okay in his operational training here.

I have another money order for \$100.00 but will not send it until you return home. You should get a check from the government for \$50.00 - class E allotment (payroll savings plan). I will take care of my quarterly income tax payment.

I didn't have time to see real New Orleans. What I saw was crowded and ill kept.

Four of us stayed up to listen to the All Stars football game a week ago.

I am planning to have my picture taken and that of my crew soon.

I am going to write Dad and Julia now.

Love,

Lee