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Sunday noon

September 17, 1944

Dear Mother,

It was good to talk to you Friday evening even though it was long distance. I am sorry that so much confusion occurred [sic] in calling you but I had intended to put a call through to you and another through to Julia about seven Wilmington time so that I could beat the evening rush and get some sleep before flying at three in the morning.

Present plans call for me to ship out of Gulfport for Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia, on September 23, 1944, for final staging and post of embarkation. It should be [sic] (be) less than a week after that before I am flying overseas to combat. Seventeen crews are leaving here on the twenty-third, including ten of the eleven pilot volunteers for the 3rd Air Force from Roswell Army Air Field. Of course we don't know where exactly we will go from Savannah

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and from the time we leave Gulfport until we reach our destination we will be under secret orders so there may be a period of a couple of weeks during which you will not hear from me and during which I will have no permanent address. But I will write just as soon as I can -- Please don't worry about me.

Enclosed is a money order for \$100.00 for my account. I think that I have been saving rather well recently but I will not send any money home this month for I must purchase some new equipment (G.I. shoes, raincoat, O.D. suit, white gloves, leggings [sic], etc.) for overseas and keep a bit on hand for any emergency. I think that I will increase my allotment checks as the quickest, easiest, cheapest and most dependable way to send money home from overseas. I wish that you would send me a statement every once in a while of how I stand financially, savings account, bonds, etc.

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Sometime this week I will ship home a package - letters, flying manuals [sic], bathing trunks, etc. I wish that you would file the letters and manuals [sic] in my already over stuffed room. I will try to buy occasional [sic] souvenirs [sic] to send you from overseas but please don't expect me to remember Christmas on the dot.

Don't forget to write me on V-Mail - a couple of sheets at a time. Clippings are probably against the rule so you will have to write news of others in service,

Wilmington, Blue Bombers, sports, marriages, etc. I won't be allowed to write in much detail but I would like to give you a rough idea of where I will be -- the first letter of the first paragraph of my first three letters will be the first letter of the country in which I am based; first letter of closing sentence will stand for North, South, East or West; the rest you will have to puzzle out.

I wish that you would keep in contact with Julia.

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I think that she is tops, and someday maybe I will ask her to be my wife.

More latter [sic].

Love,

Lee

P.S. Send any 620 film you can get.