Saturday evening
October 21, 1944

Dear Mother,

I have just returned from radio ground school and in the hour remaining before 2100 lights out P must write several letters.

During the past several days P have been almost totally occupied with a concentrated ground school introduction to the U.S.A. 8th Air Force, the ETO and air combat against Nazi Germany. Oxygen, first-aid, air-sea rescue, radio, engineering of operation, code, aircraft recognition, tactics, ditching, bail-out, gunnery, prisoners of war, escape, weather, security, briefing, interrogation, intelligence, first aid, health and hygiene, combat flight.

My entire B-17 crew is to be checked out on the ground before flying. But soon P will start flying again! P will fly.
with a skeleton crew (pilot, co-pilot, engineer, radio operator) on practice missions during which P will be given flying checks (transition, night, formation, emergency). As veteran aircrews graduate from combat upon completion of thirty-five missions P will replace them. But practice missions will be scheduled during my entire tour of duty and on an off day P may be scheduled to spend time a plane (break in new engines).

Today P received forwarded letters from Mr. Boykin and Daisy Wilson. P am waiting eagerly for your mail from home to catch up with me.

Love,
Lee