

**1**

Saturday evening

October 21, 1944

Dear Mother,

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

During the past few days I have been almost totally occupied with a concentrated ground school introduction to the U.S.A. 8'th Air Force, the ETO and air combat against Nazii [sic] Germany. (oxygen, frost bite, air-sea rescue, radio, engineering of operation, code, aircraft recognition, tactics, ditching, bail out, gunnery, prisoner of war, escape, weather, security, briefing, interrogation, intelligence, first aid, health and hygiene [sic], combat flight). My entire B-17 crew is to be checked out on the ground before flying.

But soon I will start flying again! I will fly

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with a skeleton crew (pilot, co-pilot, engineer, radio operator) on practice missions during which I will be given flying checks (transition, night, formation, emergency). As veteran aircrews graduate from combat upon completion of thirty five missions I will replace them. But practice missions will be scheduled during my entire tour of duty and on an off day I may be scheduled to slow time a plane (break in new engines).

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

Love,

Lee