Sunday evening
October 29, 1944

Dear Mother,

I am now operational—that is, my crew and I have been checked and found ready for the air war against the Axis. But training will continue on days that no bombing mission is scheduled as part of the constant effort to gain complete mastery of the air for the United Nations.

You all back home are probably wondering just how the airbase of the 497th Bomb Group of the 8th U.S. AAF compares with a typical airbase in the United States. The most striking difference is that here in England there is no fenced off plot of ground reserved for the military—planes, personnel, equipment and buildings are scattered for protection against possible enemy attack. I have to skirt a turnip field to go to the mess hall and a small English pub stands by field headquarters. Barracks are also
different — low long Niessen
hats with bricked up ends.
But the remaining features
of this case are no different
than at any continental U.S.
base. The situation might
be summed up as adequate.
Little lacks such as fresh eggs,
ample lighting & sidewalks
cause most griefs.

As yet I have had no
time to go or pass but from
now on I should be getting
a couple of days a month.
Of course I will make a point
of visiting London and if given
enough time I will see
Edinburgh. I would also like
to see Cambridge and Spwistle.

Love

Lee