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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 447th Bomb Group of the 8th U.S. A.A.F. 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 [sic], 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

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different -- low long Niessen [sic] huts with bricked up ends. But the remaining features of this base 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 or sidewalks cause most peeves.

As yet I have had no time to go on 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 Ipswich [sic].

Love,

Lee