

Montague St NW
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Mr. Chas E. Loape
c/o Dear Roebuck Co
Lynchburg Va

Friday night

Dear Children -

Just a note tonight -

Frank phoned last night saying he was being transferred to Long Beach California, next week. Didn't think he would be allowed a furlough to come home. He will be in the "Ferry Command" that is, to go to the different air plane factories in the United States and drive planes wherever they wanted them from the factories. He seemed to think he would get a big kick out of this. So we are in hopes that maybe this will prevent him from having to go across. Think he still has hopes of getting home at the last moment.

Fred is here now just came in - but wanted to let you know about Frank & send you his last letters, which we hope you will get tomorrow, to have to read over the week-end.

This is all the news I know now so want to talk to Fred a little.

Tell my big little girl and Melba
Hello - Come we love you.

Daddey

We havnt had a letter all this week,
from you



LUBBOCK ARMY FLYING SCHOOL
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Saturday

Nov. 21, 1942

Hello, Folks,

Here starts something - don't know how far I'll get, or just what I'll write about. We have the day off, so to speak and when I get thru with this I'm heading to town. Don't know just what for, exactly, guess it's the principle of the thing more than anything else!

We flew last night, - so tonight is our night off. We weren't scheduled to fly this afternoon and our classes were called off for this morning - so --- There's a good football game in town that I'd like to see, but don't think I will. It's too darn cold! Just as we were going to take off last night they called us on the radio and told us to return immediately as a cold front was moving in.

Brother, I mean it moved in. We returned to the base, parked our planes and went in the flight room. In about 15 minutes we were dismissed and upon returning to our barracks we found the wind had shifted 180° blowing straight out of the north!

Well, - we all knew what to expect, so this morning we weren't disappointed! - The wind is blowing a real gale - 40 miles steady + gusts up to 60 and the truck has stopped like nobody's business. - Hunter has come with no uncertain terms. - Guess it's about time, tho. (There, now - you didn't know one could write so much about the weather "did you? I should get technical and give you the theoretical side, but I'll spare you those details. - besides I'd probably get in way over my head and drown myself!)

We've had about 3 cross-countries at night this last week plus some formation rides. - The cross-countries are pretty interesting - and in lots of ways more simple than daylight ones - Especially where we have these beacon lights or radio ranges to follow. This is such a sparsely settled country tho. why even the lights on the ranch houses can be seen for miles + miles.

Last Monday we did an interception problem that took us way into New Mexico. I saw the Rocky Mountains for the first time. - Of course they were still far away as we were flying at about 9000 ft. but even so you could tell the immenseness of them. They surely looked big, but the sight of 'em was just enough to goad my curiosity. - Now I wanta go close and really see them! - Maybe that old gut who said "go west" is behind me pushing!



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But he can't push too hard cause I still wanna go east, too! -

All of which reminds me of a nice juicy rumor I heard last night. - I, of course, got it from a fellow who was talking to a fellow, who got it straight from headquarters (as is always the case in these things), that he had seen the orders that says to the effect:- Class 42-K will get a 14 day furlough upon graduating! Personally - I think it's someone's wishful thinking, but thought I'd pass it on anyhow. - Who am I to stop a nice juicy rumor such as that?

Oh, yes. - Thank you Sister for the candy.. It was a nice surprise and both the other fellows & I welcomed it with open arms, - a sweet-tooth, and as usual, while not exactly an empty stomach, one that was open to suggestion. - Yessir, - the juices that excrete behind ones tongue and give you that good feeling & when looking upon good things to eat, really excreted! So I make myself clear? - They were good & most enjoyable to say the least!

Hell, - three weeks from today is the day. Things are pointing towards it more and more all the time, and the usual anxiety of when & where you go from here is getting more apparent as each day goes by. - Only this time it's lots more so. We won't know until just before this is all over - a day - maybe two, before graduation or maybe not until after the actual exercises so I can't see wasting a lot of time worrying about something you can't do something about.

- Judas Priest - a fellow just walked in the barrack carrying a rather flat box - pretty big, - and addressed to one Frank Loops. - The afore mentioned juices are excreting again like nobody's business - why do you folks do this to me? - Thanks again - where did you rustle the sugar? - If I get a stomach ache - I know who's to blame!

I don't know just what to do about luggage. - I've got some sort of a bag that will be issued and I wanted to get some sort of a washable footlocker they have. - Also I was going to get a suitcase - but with so much other expenses coming up. - You about decided maybe you had better send me the Gladstone of Fred's. I won't know just what I'll need until the time comes or just what I have to pack. I can always send it back if I find I don't need it. Guess you better put my traveling kit in it too. Railway Express will probably be best. There's no rush in getting it off - and if it's inconvenient - just say so and I'll work out something else.

Guess I'd better go now - I've got lots of stuff to eat and so must get busy!

Love, Frank



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LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Monday night
Nov. 23, 1942

Hello Folks.-

Surprised to hear again so soon? Hell - You surprised to be writing, so guess it's a mutual thing, eh? It won't be long, tho. - I'm about ready for bed. - No, it's not bed time. - It's just that I haven't seen much of the bed lately. - He started flying at 8 o'clock last night and I made my final landing at about 2:30 A.M. - It was well after 3 when I finally got to bed and altho allowed to sleep until 7:45 this A.M. - It hasn't much! -

Today has been a rather busy day for me. - that is, - this morning was. - I spent most of it at the post Technical Inspector's office and over to the flight surgeon's at the hospital taking another physical exam!

The why of it all is rather a long tiresome story which I won't go into detail with but the gist of it is this: Last night as I was coming in on the last landing, - in fact I had landed, I got caught in the pop wash of the ship that had just landed in front of me. - Hell, I started in a series of evolutions that I couldn't stop

in time - so it resulted in a "ground loop" - a maneuver whereby the plane has a tendency to spin around in a circle over the same spot! - The result was - the right landing gear gave way - snapped off - and let the plane down on that wing. - Immediately I shut off all the gas connections and my co-pilot shut off all electrical switches, so that we avoided the risk of a fire. - Honestly, you've never seen two people pull at so many gadgets so quickly and still get out of the plane in nothing flat! - Neither of us got so much as a scratch, tho I can't say so much for the plane. It will take a new wing, propeller + wheel assembly before it flies again. -

I had it so - for lots of reasons - but primarily because, well, I should have been able to prevent it's happening. - It's just one of those things, I guess. - We had landed but musta been still rolling at least 60 or 65 when it all started - and it doesn't take much time for things to happen and they get over fast. Boy, the Skip at Glen Echo hasn't a thing to that experience!

This morning I had to report to the Post Technical Inspector and relate just, how, why, + when, and submit a written report. - Afterwards my copilot + I reported to the hospital for a physical check up. - They took ~~me~~ a "Schneider" on our blood pressure + a check on our eyes. Just a formality that has to be met whenever there's an accident of any kind. We both checked out O.K. - so were returned to flying status immediately.

Don't know just what the outcome of it all will be. - Probably be restricted to the post for the duration of my



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stay at Lubbock. But guess I'll be lucky if I get out that easily. The thing that makes me so mad is that it's the first accident I've ever had since flying - and that it would have to come when I'm so near finished my training. But all in all, - guess I'd better consider myself lucky if that is as bad as I ever do! - I'm not worrying, tho, - so don't you. It was unavoidable as far as I'm concerned and I did the best I could to prevent it from being worse, tho the initial start of it might be traced back to just a split second of laxness on my part. - Oh - well. - Phooey on it. - That's done is done. - The tax payers are just set back a couple of more thousand for my education and it's a lesson well learned I guess & hope!

Tonight is our "off" night, so to speak - but as I said before - think I will very shortly put me to bed. - all in all. - it has been a most irregular day. -

Sister we are still enjoying the box of Brownies and candy. - Thanks again for sending it, - tho I still ought to report you to the sugar rationing board!

Bye for now, and love,

Frank Ground Loop

(over)

P.S.- Here it is Wednesday - and nothing further to relate so guess I'd better mail this. I flew until about 3 again last night but behaved myself this time! - I think the other incident is closed. - I had to sign an official statement giving the events and they tell me that's all there is to it.

Was talking to our 'cook' this morning. He was telling me all about Thanksgiving dinner tomorrow. You shouldn't worry about yours Ma - The cook tells me he has to stay up all night tonight - cooking 60 turkeys for us! - Don't see how it can be better than our usual meals - but if they think they will "out do" their usual selves - well, I'm just the man that needs to be shown. Can you send me upon ~~cartons~~ of "Tums". I've a feeling I'll need them.

J.W.



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LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Sunday morning.

Nov. 29, 1942

Hello, Folks.-

Guess you all are just old fashion galavants from way back! - What an awful slow trip you musta had at 35 miles per hour. - That's what I call real perseverance, or sumptin'! But as long as you enjoyed it - guess that's what counts, eh?

What's this about Brother being transferred? Does he have any inkling as to where he might be sent? - Hope he doesn't leave the good old state of Virginia too far behind and get himself out of touch with D.C. If he moved a little more often, I'd say he was almost giving me a close race, - but so far, - he's not even holding a candle to me.

See, you should see the life of luxury we are living now! - We only fly every other night (tho 5+6 hrs at a time) usually getting to bed around 2 or 3 in the morning. - They allow us to sleep late, missing breakfast if we want to sleep that badly. Sunday is spent in different sorts of ways,

but on the most part, nothing strenuous. The calisthenics even seem easier - but guess they should by this time, if we were ever to get broken in to them! - On the nights we don't fly we have the privilege of going to town - provided we aren't scheduled for "lick" - and I usually am! -

It will be a different story again, tho' when we get out of here into a tactical squadron. They say that's much more strenuous the first month or so, than any cadet training we have had! - Oh, well, - a little reprieve now will make us do lots better then, - so I should worry. -

We've heard nothing further about a furlough - except I was talking to one of our tactical officers the other night and he said it (what we had heard) was a pipe dream. - There haven't been any given that he knows of, for quite a few classes - and he saw no reason why we would get one. - at least he has heard nothing of it. - That's about what I thought - but we will really have to wait until the time comes, to see!

P.S. - I guess you're out of luck - will have to start stop pulling for me to get "Bolling Field". Just found out there's a ruling where no officer (ahem!) can be at a station closer than 150 miles from his home! But don't worry - miles don't mean a heck of a lot when you're flying. The old prop just chews 'em up and spits 'em out the exhaust stacks!

I see by Sister's letter Thanksgiving was just



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another work day for all ~~except~~ Pop - Hall, - it was here too. - The only thing different was our dinner. That was a *lalapalosa*, if you'll pardon the vernacular! - Guess it was as good as possible to get, and not be at home, of course. He flew that night, as usual, way ~~with~~ the late morning!

Just to show you what we had for dinner Thanksgiving take a look at our menu. - He had everything on it, too, ~~except~~ the apple cider. - That just shows you how they try to take care of us. - All menus of our meals have to be approved by the flight surgeon - and he ruled the cider out! - There was something about a fermentation that would take place between the cider & the fruits, both in and out of the fruit cake! - Oh, well, - I think most of us managed to struggle thru without the cider!

Immediately after dinner, we went to a class on aircraft engines. - That particular day they had movies showing different things about the engines - and well - what do you think happened - after such a heavy meal, in a closed room, dark, - and an uninteresting movie? The Lt in charge got very mad because we went to sleep on his show. - He threatened to base us all out on the ramp

walking tours! -

We were scheduled to fly last night - but a heavy wind came in - about 40 - 50 mph blowing about all around. Because the visibility was very poor, - we got an unexpected Saturday night off. We have all the required number of hours in already - but still have to keep on flying because of a recent ruling. Our class right now has more night flying than any other class that has gone thru here. - He could be grounded the rest of our time here & still graduate! - So what do you think - every night - every body wishes it would rain! - Guess the human being just isn't made to be satisfied! -

Have about brought you up to date now - and as I've run out anyhow - better sign off. - Bye now & be good.

Frye,
Frank



LUBBOCK ARMY FLYING SCHOOL
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Sunday _____

Dec. 6, 1942

Hello folks,-

See-if I were home now- you know what I'd be thinking about doing? - Hell- the thoughts of "snow cream" sure does tickle my pallet! - The reason why I should think of snow cream in "sunny Texas" is on account of because we have snow! - And does it look good! - I got in about midnight last night and sometime between then and when I woke up- it started its funny business. There was about 4 inches of it then and now (4PM) it must be at least 8 inches on the level, and still coming down! -

Our ever present wind has drifted it quite deep in places, so it has all the ear-marks of a real-snow storm. Our flying scheduled for tonight has just been called off, so now every-one is happy! (I always did like snow!)

Today has been a real day of luxury. - Just been bumming around doing nothing. We all put on our heavy fur-lined boots (those of us at camp) when we went to "chow" at noon. Upon arriving at the mess hall we found we had to wait about 15 minutes before eating, so

as you might imagine - the inevitable happened - a snow fight started and we all worked up a very good appetite in such a short time. - What else can you expect from a bunch of healthy boys? - After dinner we sat around awhile and finally went to the post theater at 2. Just now things are in process that will mean we will all take off shortly and go to the post cafeteria and eat something, even tho we aren't hungry. - And sad to say - I'll be right in there with 'em. - Guess a milk shake will go good after a snow battle on the way. - Perhaps a hot chocolate even better! - Life has so many problems!

Our graduation - as most everything else that class 42-K has ~~done~~ had happen to it, appears to be about as messy as could be. - The actual graduation will take place Thursday instead of Sunday. This is done so we will all get our wings (^{at the same time} that's all it consists of). - I think this is done for the benefit of the "West Pointers" in the class. They have to report back to the "Point" - and won't get their commissions until January. - So for three days we just hang around as far as I can figure. - On Sunday - the 13th - as per schedule, we get sworn in as officers and get our commissions. By that time I suppose our orders will be in and we will know whether or not we can come home! Haven't the slightest idea of what ^{if any} where I'll be sent, so guess there's no use even thinking about it. For the three days, that is. - Thursday, Friday & Sat. after we get our wings, we are still officially Cadets, I suppose. It depends on how our discharges read. - Maybe we might even be civilians! - Anyhow, our uniform will be that of an officer, minus the bars of



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rank.

I haven't received my class ring yet. They said when I ordered it, that I might not receive it before I left here - and if not - they would send it to our home address - so be on the look-out for it unless I tell you otherwise.

Oh, yes - the subject of income-tax came up the other night - and a big light lit up! I suddenly remembered this was December and my final installment was due on the 15th. - I think this is the correct amount - if not - add to it and let me know. They tell me that ^{the tax} on a 2nd Lt. - pay, when on a flying status, amounts to around \$70 a month just for income tax. - so maybe I won't be clearing up so much after all.

Oh, yes - I had company day before yesterday. - A Lt. Hayes came to see me - who was he? - of all people - Lyn's brother! - He is stationed in Plainview, Texas (a little town north ~~east~~ of Lubbock) and had come over to Lubbock + L.A.F.S. with a captain friend on business. I only got to see him about 20 minutes, but it seemed real nice to have company. - I've flown over Plainview dozens of times, never dreaming I might know someone down there..

I know there are lots of ~~bad~~ things I wanted to tell you, but
can't think of 'em now. - Oh yes - here's one - no Christmas
Presents again this year. - Let it be like last year - I'll be moved
and don't know what sort of accommodations I might have - so don't
want the extra stuff I might get, to lug around with me. - I
think you can see why I prefer to have it this way. -

How do you like my "calling cards". The St. part looks
mighty good to me! - Maybe I'll get one framed some day!

Went to the dentist last Monday. - It was just a general
check up - but he found a filling cracked. - I feared the
worst, it being one that Dr. Bowman had had trouble with
me keeping tools in my mouth. - But it was all needless.
For some unaccountable reason I didn't "gag" and all was o.k.
I never saw a dentist work so fast. - He removed the filling,
drilled, and put a new filling in, in about 15 minutes! Then
he turned me over to a nurse who cleaned my teeth and
now I'm all set for another spell or two! Thank goodness!

Am about run out now so guess I'll trot along
for a spell. - Bye & maybe I'll be seeing you soon!

Sincerely,
Frank