

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb.Gp.  
A.P.O. 520, S. Postmstr N.Y.C.  
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Hello, folks,

Another week just about shot already.

It seems that the days sorta drag - but the weeks sure roll around. - Once in awhile we lose track of the day of the week for several days - and it's hard to believe it when you find out what it actually is. - Just think, I'm well into my fifth month over-seas! -

Sometimes it seems ages since we were in the states. - Depends on events and your particular humor at the moment, I suppose.

We've been busy this last week. - In all our spare time we have been working on our "officers club" for our squadron. You'd be surprised at the progress made. - In less than a week we have the building itself finished. It measures roughly about 25 ft wide & 50 ft long. - We have a bar in one corner and even a cement floor! - We will never know where the materials came from. - Small groups collected different stuff whenever and however they could. - Some from scrap piles, wrecked planes, from off of ships, bombed houses in town - just any place! - Paint &

finishing materials are even more scarce,  
but so far we have made out swell. To  
finish the inside walls we took a blow  
torch and burnished the wood! - It gives it  
a stained color, and at the same time it  
brings the graining out in the wood. - Gives it  
a restful atmosphere. - One of the boys has a  
small portable radio-phonograph which he is  
donating and some one has made arrangements  
in town to get some chairs + small tables. With  
the magazines different ones subscribe to, it  
will take on the aspects of home - which we  
mean it to be.

To get started each of us gave \$20 to the fund.  
This pays for what we've had to buy - and will  
serve to keep the "bar" supplied plus some  
little snacks planes will pick up whenever  
possible when they go on "cross-country". The  
liquor, if any, and the snacks will be bought  
by each one as in a store, thereby keeping the  
club solvent so that repeated donations won't  
be demanded! - All told - I think they got around  
\$800 to start things with! - It's a nice set  
up, and will give us a screened in, cooler,  
more restful place to lounge in. It should  
work out swell - only we will probably get orders  
to move again just after we get things running!  
- But even so, we will have had fun in  
building & planning! - Who knows, we might

2/ even dismantle it all, and shove it in  
a plane & take it along! - Stranger things  
happen in a combat zone!

Haven't much to write about since I  
wrote you, the day I was Airdrop Officer. - I  
had a recurrence of the ~~diarrhea~~ <sup>diarrhea</sup> for several  
days! - The Doc gave me some more pills - and  
grounded me from going on any missions. I  
was pretty weak after several days of it, following  
the other spell I had <sup>just</sup> last week. - Think it  
must be due to some grapes we had been buying  
locally and the flies. It's next to impossible to  
keep flies off of anything and at times they  
just about drive a person nuts. - They are  
so hardy that when you swat them, - unless  
you follow it up and step on 'em - they get  
right up and fly. - And not away, either!  
They come back at you, and it's not hard to  
tell they are really mad, this time! - However  
things are about under control again and  
the Doc says he will put me back on flying  
tomorrow. It is the first time since I've been  
flying that I've ever been grounded - officially. -  
and even tho' it was just four days, - it  
seemed starting to think that I couldn't  
get out and fly if I'd wanted to! - Glad  
that's over and done with. -

Say, what do you know, Yesteray - the  
27th - I got a telegram from Ma.! - A Birthday

one, at that. - It arrived in Africa on the  
1nd, tho' - and I suppose it was delayed because  
it bore no address other than my name, rank  
and serial number. - I'll find out if it's  
permissible to send it, and if it is - I'll let  
you see what it looks like - all done up in  
its French form!

I think at last I must have received all my  
lost mail. - It has gone back to what I guess is  
normal, and all the referred to letters seemed  
to have reached me! I even got some V-mail  
paper from Sister mailed to me here!

Oh, yes. - a letter from Fred yesterday,  
one that had been held up, had the  
clipping about Buddy Lewis's buzz job  
at the ball park! - It sounds just like  
him! - ~~I showed~~ showed it to some of the  
fellows here about. - A couple of them were  
with me way back in Brooks Field - and  
were also with Buddy during their training  
and Basic at Randolph.

I've meant to drop Buddy a line - but so  
far haven't gotten around to it. I heard he  
was held up from leaving the states, because  
the C.O. of that particular field had need  
of a ball player such as Buddy - and when  
Buddy hit there - ~~he~~ (the C.O.) caused his  
orders to be changed & kept him there! - I

3/ seriously doubt that - but in the Army,  
I must admit it has possibilities! If that  
is true, I can see Buddy just going nuts,  
as anxious as he was to get into combat. - It  
was bad enough when they put him in  
the transport carrier type of service! I'll have to  
drop him a note by way of his home, I guess.

I'll have to really start watching the  
mail now, for my cake. - I figured anywhere  
after 4 weeks - and it is just about 4 now!

It seems there should be lots of things  
I want to tell you, but right now while  
I'm writing I can't think of a single one of  
them.

Oh, yes. - Western Church sends me a schedule  
of the services each week. - They also include  
a note from Rev. MacKenzie once in awhile. So  
far, they have mostly been forwarded from Avon.  
Don't know how they keep my address. Suppose  
it would be nice of me to acknowledge it  
in some way, but haven't as yet. - The other  
day I got a regular form - inviting ~~me~~ to  
be present at the time of the presentation  
of their so called "roll of honor" - and that a  
seat would be saved for me! - Of course it  
was way out of date! - It was signed by Brownie.  
I started a letter to him - explaining that I  
might not be able to get there due to pressing  
business - but never did finish it. - Later on  
when I got back to it, - I thought maybe he

wouldn't appreciate my sense of humor! - So  
I never finished it. -

Oh, yes - I know what I've been intending  
to ask for some time, but can never remember.  
Sister, how about taking some of our fund and  
subscribing to the American Magazine for me? - I  
wrote the Sat. Even. Post & inclosed a check, but  
couldn't find what the American's address was  
- so --- Also, would it be possible to get just  
the Sunday edition of the Washington Post sent  
over here? - That would give us some funnies, and  
a resume of news of all sorts. - That besides the  
magazines would give us plenty of reading  
material, - or it should. -

Well. - I'd better close and get over to see  
how the club is coming along. - Going "visiting"  
tomorrow, so maybe I'll send a V-mail after  
we get back. -

Love,  
Frank