

Saturday morning
July 18, 1942

Hello Folks,-

I'll start this now - it will probably be just a note, - but at least you'll be hearing from me. - We are having all sorts of drills and inspections today - and being a Supply sergeant gets me out of the drills, at least, - so while the others are toiling away - I'll sneak in a few lines.

We aren't flying ~~now~~ today. - They've pushed us hard all week so we would be well upon schedule and today is - as I said - for drills + stuff. We get "open post" at noon, so that will give us $1\frac{1}{2}$ days reprieve! - As much as on the fourth!

I'm going with two West Pointers to Wichita Kansas for the day - or weekend I guess you'd say! One of ~~is~~ the Cadets' home is there - or just outside of town and he invited the other two of us home with him for the week-end. - It's about 200 miles from here and takes around 4 hrs. on the train. The rest of the gang are going to Ok. City again but I thought I'd enjoy this other better. More my type of entertainment I guess, - besides good home cooking and another state added to my collection!

Flying & more flying is all we do. - Yesterday

I got checked out from the front seat and flew it solo from there. - It's most like flying another ship, - but lots more fun. - You even have instruments to watch! - A luxury! No ~~first~~ 40 hr. check yet, tho. - They started giving them yesterday - so I suppose mine will be coming up early next week. - Keep your fingers crossed. - They seem to steer the one maneuver I can't do so well. - The chandelle! Sometimes I can do it on the nose and then the next time I can't do it to save my soul. - Just can't strike a happy medium.

Yesterday was quite a busy time. - I flew for 3 hrs. in the A.M. - and after lunch went to classes and had 3 exams. - Then followed calisthenics, - consisting of regular exercises, a one mile run, and the rest of the hour was spent playing volleyball! - This is really just routine. - except for one exam and the mile run. - though we have to run the mile twice a week. We have to run it in $6\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, too, or run it over again! - Yesterday I had to laugh while doing it. - I just thought of Ma - and what would be her reaction to my doing such a thing - running a mile with the temperature inside the barrack of around 98 to 100! I heard the Dr. say last time we ran it he didn't see what kept half of us from passing out on it! - Guess we are really in what might be referred to as 1st class physical shape, - eh? - Oh, yes - I forgot to tell you the rest of the day! - They made arrangements

for us to go to town by bus last night for swimming.
(I say night, but you must realize it's not dark when
we go to bed at 9:30). - I was going in but at the
last moment was talked out of it. - I stayed here on post
and played tennis instead! - Would you like to take
a walk?

I had Brother a belt made for his birthday.
There's a man in town who makes them to order. -
The western style. - I still haven't gotten Henry anything,
but will try over the week-end.

Oh, yes, - while I think of it. - Nothing for my
birthday please! - Oh, I know what you're thinking,
but no soap. - You see, - our class will probably
leave here around the 3rd or 4th and I'd lots rather
not have to fool with packing or disporing of anything
if you know what I mean. And I hope you do see my
point of view! - You saw when I left for Kelly how I
have to pack so I think you can appreciate the fact
the less I have to fool with, the better off I am!
Besides, - the rate they're moving us, - I wouldn't be
a bit surprised if they up the schedule on us cause
we're lots further along at this same point than our
upper-classmen were. - Don't know where we will
go for Basic. - There are only about 3 places that I
know of, - Randolph, Ftaco or Enid Okla. - Rumor has it
most strongly for Enid. - about 150 miles north of
here. They never send a bunch to the same
place twice in a row, and as our upperclassmen
went to Randolph - well, - that's pretty well out.
This is rotated, I think, to keep from having the

same ones for upper & lower classmen for more than once. (What am I talking about - I haven't passed my check yet, - incidentally I have over 45 hrs!)

Oh, yes - Birthdays! - How did I get side-tracked? Maybe after this mess is all over we can get together & have a "super-super" one! -

I just talked myself out of 17 hours in the hot sun with complete uniform! - Due to a misunderstanding about my flying schedule Thursday, I missed one period and was turned in for it. (I was in the barber-shop when they called my name, so didn't hear it.) Anyhow the elements I received mounted up to 19 hrs. walking tours! - He mentioned the fact to my instructor, in just talking to him, and you can't guess what he did! He went to the authorities that he and told them it was all his fault! - He had misunderstood the schedule and had excused me from the flight line, giving me permission to get my hair cut! - He came back and told me that! - He said I would have to see the commandant of Cadets and tell him just what happened. - They ~~he~~ proceeded to add that when I was called before him - to tell him anything I had to, to get out of it, and he would back me up, in writing, if necessary! Isn't that a pal for you? Hell, - I just saw the commandant and satisfied him! - Now I just have 2 tours - gotten from something else beyond my control! - But after slapping "19" in the face - "2" is a bummer! - He said with him being a civilian, - they wouldn't do or say anything

with his taking the blame. - That such a punishment
for such a small offense was "damn foolishness" and he'd
tell the Army so!

Sunday night —

Just got back. - Left in such a hurry I
didn't get to mail you letter. - Just a few minutes
before study period so I'll close it and get it in the
mail.

Got to Wichita around 4:30 yesterday afternoon
and had to leave at 1:30 this afternoon. - A quick
trip but most enjoyable. - every minute of it. It
seemed so good to be in a homey atmosphere again
and everyone doing as they pleased.

Bob Halling - whose home we went to is, as
I said, a West Pointe. - His folks have a home in the
city of Wichita - but live in the country about 15
miles during the summer - They have about 3 small
farms which Mr. Halling bought when the children
were small, so they could have a place to spend
the summer. - Bob has 2 brothers around 20 & 22
who practically do all the work and keep the farms
and a sister who just got out of high school. The
folks are all nice and went out of their way to
make us welcome.

His sister met us at the station and we went
out to the farm. - He changed to coveralls and started
right in freezing ice cream! - After supper (fried
chicken with all the trimmings with our ice cream)
a bunch of us went back to town. Bill Kyle - the third
one in our party - One of Bob's brothers, his ~~sister~~

a cousin, and Bob's fiance made up the party.
It was after 9 when we got to town so we just bowled
a few games. - Got back to the farm about 12:30,
raided the ice-box - ate all the chicken left over, ice
cream & cake and went to bed. - Slept till 9 this

A.M. - fooled around the farm - and even saddled up
their riding horse and rode it along with the others!

A great big pretty western horse. - I told them I hated
to go out "solo" with no dual, - but if that was the
thing to do -- look out! - I came in with no
forced landings and even lowered my flaps! - I think
I maybe should have joined the ~~cavvy~~ cavalry? -

Oh, yes - I also learned how to farm wheat. Now
I don't know which to raise - wheat, cotton, or tobacco!

Gotta close now - no foolin. - a good thing,
too, or this "note" might be turned into a book! He
had just a little more excitement this past week -

Two more "dodgers" were thrown out of planes. - Same
reason - they forgot to fasten their safety belt!
One unfortunately was killed. - His head struck the
rudder and was either killed instantly or knocked
unconscious. - Anyway he didn't get a chance to use
his chute. - Now we are making all "dodgers" fasten
and unfasten their imaginary safety belt whenever
they sit down or get up. - I can't imagine forgettig
~~such an important thing!~~

Hope I pass my 40 hr! Bye now for
sure!

Love,
Frank