



THE AVON PARK BOMBING RANGE
AVON PARK, FLORIDA

Sunday night
Jan. 3, 1943

Dear Keeds,-

Well,- here I am - back on the job again.
but this time in Florida! - Never can tell - maybe
even Bolling, some day (I can dream can't I? -)

I'm sorry as can be I couldn't get to stop by
and see you all in Lynchburg. You just can't begin
to understand the traveling problem there is today
until you actually try to take a trip yourself. - I
was lucky enough to get passage on the Silver
Meteor thru Joe's efforts. - He got me reservations
thru some friend (as usual) - and I couldn't have
possibly have gotten on it myself. - As it was - the
train was over 2 hrs late getting here - so I just
managed to beat the deadline by about 3 hrs.
Some friends of mine who left New York on Wednesday ^{afternoon} ~~Wednesday~~
just ~~beat~~ me in town by about one hr. and I didn't
leave D.C. until 7 o'clock Thursday night! - You've no
idea - even freight trains have the right of way over
crack ~~the~~ passenger trains these days. - Blame it on
the gas shortage or something - cause you know I'd have
come by if I possibly could.

Don't know just what we will do here. - We are
to check out on Martin B-26-Bombers. - after we get

the hang of 'em - we will get our crew and practice with them for awhile. - Then - you guess - go raise some hell of our own! -

The planes are swell to all appearances - but very wicked. - They have no wing to speak of, so consequently with the load they carry - they have an extremely high landing speed. - Believe it or not - they are the hottest ships the army has and lots of pursuit ships can't even begin to catch 'em!

Our field here is brand new - a matter of weeks - so naturally the living conditions are very primitive. At present I feel like the very devil - just plain worn out. Think it's due to not having ^{had} any exercise in such a long time, combined with our water change. The water here is full of sulfur and as usual the Army has loaded it with chlorine. - The combination is wicked - take it from me! - It's only 8:30 and I'm more than ready for bed, so you know!

Lots of our fellows are getting sent out pretty soon as co. pilots. They are being used to complete crews that are almost ready to go out. I'm just hoping I'm lucky enough to get to stay and be checked out as a "first pilot" instead. - Keep your fingers crossed for me.

By the way - I've run into most of my old outfit I was with in Camp Davis. You can't ever tell who you will run into where! -

Gotta go now - I'm just too tired. Write when you can - and often. - Bye + Love

Frank.

P.S. - New address -

478 Bomb. Sqdn., 336 Bomb. Grp.
Avon Park, Fla.