

a new address to reach me -
Lt. — — — — —
478 Syc. 336 Bont. Group.
Avon Park, Fla.



Sunday afternoon
Jan. 3, 1943

Hello Folks, -

I have about 45 minutes left so I'll try to scribble out a few lines to ya.

My train finally arrived at Avon Park about 8:30 Friday night. - No one seemed particularly worried about it so guess it was all right. - We lost most of our time between Richmond + Petersburg. - They side-tracked us for almost six hours so we just sat. - I got talking to members of the train crew the next morning and they told me there had been a wreck of some sort just ahead of us and we had to wait until the track was cleared.

The car I was on wasn't more than half full and those on it were all civilians going to Miami for either vacations or to see relatives there in the service. - Everyone was very friendly and seemed to have a good time. They were all celebrating the arrival of the new year - singing "O' Lang Syne" or something. Me - being a real soldier - I was dead asleep at midnight and never really roused enough to join in. - As I remember it - all I did was to turn over and go back to sleep! - See what good stead my Army training has come in?

I came right in to camp - and found Paul, Joe.

and John Freeman had beat me in by about an hour - they hadn't been able to get on the Silver Meteor so had left New York & Wash. Wednesday afternoon. They should have a better like mine!

Yesterday we got our luggage all in from town and are now living in temporary, temporary quarters - a mess-hall building in fact! They are extremely crowded - but the field is so new that it doesn't take many people to make it that way. - We are about 5 miles from the flight line so my poor ol' dogs are sorta complaining just a mite. - Our latrines are set back about 50 yds from our barracks - but at least we have plumbing. - No matter how bad a place is - I can always look back at Keesler and see a marked improvement! - I often wonder if it really was so bad - or whether it was the combination of its being bad together with my first Army Post.

We are on a 7 day week here - had classes all morning and am just about to go out to get some "link" training time. - It looks as tho we will be kept busy right on. - I don't know how long I'll stay here - some of us will be made co-pilots and leave fairly soon as most of the crews are already formed - but I hope I'm lucky enough to get to stay and be checked out as a "first pilot". - Get Joe to work for me. - He went all over our new planes today - and they weren't found wanting a bit. - They are really swell - except the added responsibility of an expensive plane & other people's lives is going to weight right heavily on us, I think. - Well, I gotta go link now - so I'll mail this now and at last get it on its way. - Bye now & route. Love, Frank