

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.  
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.  
Aug. 15, 1943

Hello Folks! -

Sunday August 15th! - Guess we're home  
I'd be "sweatin' out" pay day tomorrow,-  
but being as how that's something  
that doesn't effect me any more,-  
I'm not losing a bit of sleep over it!

Today is a real day over here.-  
Hot as always- but the clouds are  
just like they are oft times in the  
states - a real treat to see something  
American Again! - And that reminds  
me of Bob Hope! - A couple of jokes  
he pulled - in reference to his hotel  
room in a near by town. - He said  
he had a small clothes closet shared  
with an Arab - that's the only  
way he could get any sheets in  
his room! - Another one - he said  
he put in a complaint to the  
manager about the lack of air in

his room - so the manager sent  
the clerk up to blow thru the  
key-hole! Every now and then  
Bob Hope would stop and do this  
funny grin, showing his teeth. - After  
several times he told us, "I've been  
using so much Pepsodent that I  
can take my 'Dinner' straight, now!"

He was quite a card - and you can  
see how much we enjoyed him.

Frances Langford was very pretty and  
sang several songs for us. Together  
they sure went over with a bang!

We went looking for Jim Carey - our  
former navigator who was injured in a  
jeep accident - searched ~~3 or 4~~<sup>told us they</sup> hospitals  
on his trail before they had taken  
him further back from the lines. No  
one seemed to have any records as to  
where - he's just gone. Golly - what a  
system - for all we know he could  
go back to the states and no one would  
ever know the difference!

Friday August 20th. —

Didn't get around to finishing this Sunday - so it's just been hanging fire, so to speak! - The first part of the week I was down with the North African form of diarrhea! - And suffice to say, had I been in the spirit to write, I wouldn't have had the time! I had to take another course of sulfagnuanidine from the Doc, - but a couple of days saw me o.k. again. - Don't try Mama's "Blackberry & Ginger" over here - rather use the Doc as long as he is available. - This sulfa stuff goes after the germ its self-curing that way. - It's not like a slight case one gets occasionally in the states. - Over here - when the germ has attacked all the food in the intestines, - it starts after the intestines, themselves! - And take it from us over here - "it ain't no joke". - Course, we have our own name for

the malady - but don't think Ma would particularly appreciate our "terme inology!"

Every once in awhile, - twice to be exact, the Red Cross sends a show out to our field to entertain us. - The performers are mostly French - and once in a great while some of them are quite good, - but the good ones are more than over-balanced! - Some attempt to sing and talk in English - which is pretty funny - tho' it's really not supposed to be, and some stick straight to their French. For instance, - ~~the other night~~ one of the gals sang ~~"She'll~~ be coming around the mountain when she comes" - After several verses - she hit the one about the rooster, 'cept she sang: "He will kill the old dead Rooster when she comes!" - We all just couldn't help roaring with laughter at that. - After she sang it thru once, she asked us to sing it with her. - We did even to "Killing the old dead

3/ rooster!" - don't believe she ever caught on, - but of course it served ~~its~~ purpose of entertaining us - so what the heck!

Something is always cropping up that strikes me funny, it seems. - The other day I was talking to the "tower" in preparation for "taking off" when he came back with something that struck me. - It wasn't what he actually said, - but "radio procedure" is supposed so cut and dried, I just couldn't help <sup>but</sup> think of the pilot's reaction receiving a similar ~~reac~~ <sup>reply</sup> as I did - a pilot in the states, I mean. - It went something like this: - Me, - "Tower from 293, number one in takeoff position, am I clear to go, 293 over." - The answer, "293 from Tower, do not take off ----- an Arab is riding a horse down the runway!" - I admit - it doesn't look funny on paper, - but if you could see our so called runways & things we are continually finding on 'em, and compare them to set procedure on nice concrete runways back home - well, you could ~~imagine~~ the reactions of those home.

could you? - One day our mission  
was delayed taking off by a herd of  
sheep & cows milling on the runways! -  
I suppose the roar of the engines kinda  
got em out of hand of the shepherds &  
stuff - but after a couple of planes  
took off, they just crowded over the  
runway - and nothing would move 'em  
till some of the ground crews jumped  
into jeeps and became mechanized  
cowboys - giving them gentle hints with  
the bumpers! What a life - after  
the runway was cleared the planes  
continued taking off - even if a little  
late!

Went swimming again the  
other day - Spent the afternoon on  
the beach - and stopped back in town  
for supper. - A real gadabout. - Saw  
something that started me wondering - Ma,  
what sort of fish does "cuttle-bone" come  
from? (Isn't that the stuff you used to  
put in the canary cage for the bird to  
sharpen its bill on?) All along the  
shore were these cuttle-bones - just as

4/ you might buy them in a store. - One side had the ~~sa~~ hard shell on it, and the other side was like wet chalk crustations. In the soft side you could trace the markings <sup>graining</sup> just as if it were actually fish meat! - It was the first I knew it came that way. - I suppose I had thought the stuff was manufactured, if I had ever given it any thought, before.

Got a regular letter from Pop - dated 7-18, one from Sister - 8-2, and a V mail from Sister, 8-3 - yesterday! - Guess I'm some pumpkin eh. Don't know how Sister's letter written on my birthday got here so fast! - It made as good time as her V mail one. - Maybe I'm mistaken about Air Mail. - Maybe they do send it if there's room aboard the planes, or maybe it just happened to hit the boats right. Daddy's was about the usual time for a regular letter to reach me! - Did I ever thank Daddy for his Birthday card? It came about a week after the others. Also got a V mail from Brothers Fred with about the same time. - Mr. & Mrs. Speer sent me a very nice card, too. - A general "good luck" card.

Daddy, - don't you worry about censors saying,

anything about the length of your letters.  
In truth, I don't believe they censor out  
going mail to us over here at all. - Glad  
you happened to see those pictures in life. They  
are pretty close to us and it gives you more  
of an idea where we are now. - Course,  
sometimes we might move around, and  
you never know it, cause our address is  
permanent - just follows us around!

Sister enjoyed your letter, too. - It's  
nice to have a big letter to sit down  
to once in a while! Glad you got the money,  
and in time for your birthday, too! -

Thanks for all the trouble my cake  
caused you. - You can rest assured it will  
be in an edible condition, regardless, once  
it gets to us! The fruit cake sounds  
good if it can be done. "It" has had  
several come thru - and in good condition.

Glad Mrs. Ames called - Wish you could  
know them. - I feel honored that they  
should inquire about me! - I thought I had  
written them a note since coming over-  
seas - but maybe I haven't. - I'll drop 'em  
another one of these days! -

-- Hell, - more next time -

Love,  
Frank