

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, Postmaster, N.Y.C.
Aug. 8, 1943

Hello Folks,-

The Esquire calendar I have tells me another week has rolled by, so as I've nothing to do right now - I'll start my weekly regular letter in accordance with Plan A-K, or something.

Got up this morning and blew myself to some clean clothes! The others had reached the point where even I couldn't stand 'em - besides they ran away during the night! - After that breakfast, shave, - clean up the tent, and then off to the flight line to look the plane over and check upon the crew. - Then to "operations" - and as nothing was cooking - back to the tent where I am now. After flying over 5 hrs. of formation yesterday on our mission - I wasn't exactly in the mood to fly this morning. - I probably would have, tho., - 'cept today being Sunday - I'd hate to break my record and miss church! Imagine me - live

only missed once since we left
the States! For me that is good!

- As for shaving & cleaning the tent -
this is still the Army! - We can go
without shaving but about once a
week - but with this hard, cold water,
that isn't for me. - I shave every day.
still, not because I'm "eager" - but
because that's easiest on my face. - Besides,
a beard and lots of perspiration
don't go too well together! - And our
tents being clean - we have to keep
ours clean so as to get on the enlisted
men! - As in most cases - most every
one keeps dirt & trash from piling too
high, naturally - but there are always
a few who seem to be descended
from the pig family - hence Army
habits have to be brought to their
attention! - Oh - well - gotta do
something!

Got a lot of mail again yesterday!
It seems to be coming thru O.K. now
so that makes me happy! - In your
last letters you mentioned getting so
many of mine close together. - I had
thought regular mail might have

✓ been delayed, due to the using of
so many boats in the Sicilian
Invasion. - See I was right, evidently -
Just so it gets there eventually, that's
all it counts. - Just you see it that
way and don't worry if you don't
hear for long spells.

Speaking of the Sicilian Invasion,
which I suppose I shouldn't be - We made
a raid on it the night- or late afternoon,
before the troops landed. - Honestly, you've
never seen or even imagined there were
so many boats, of all kinds, in the whole
world as we passed over to & from the
Island! - I came back and noted in my
diary, "if the invasion isn't tonight, I'll
never know why not!" - Guess I'd better
lay off the subject, tho. - Save 'em for
some future date!

Had a chance to spend the day at
the beach today - but at the time, I
had to turn it down. - Thought I was
going to fly! - Now I wish I were there
and will probably be searching the
camp over for something to do.
Oh, yes. - Bob Hope is supposed to

put on a show for us tomorrow night. Don't know where it will be held, but there will be trucks to take us there. - Wouldn't miss him for anything, cause I imagine he will have extra stuff for us, overseas, and will be even better than on the radio. ---

- after dinner. -

The mail came in and I hit "Jackpot" again! When all the mail slows down to normal I'm going to feel left out! - Today I got 6 letters. - 2 from brother & 3 from sister - one having the pictures and stamps enclosed! - Yesterday I had a couple from sister and a couple from Fred! - Just keep it up, folks!

Golly, I can't see Ma riding a ~~bicycle~~! I know Pop can do it - but all these years we heard Ma threatening if she ever got a chance - and now she's gone and done it! - What a sight it must have been! Aren't you scared, Ma? Be sure and don't fall. - Couldn't you get Pop to rig up a shelf that would hold a matress. That way - you could always fall so as to land on the matress!.

3/ In sister's "real" letter she asked about
"bugs". - Ha, - you should see them! - so far
I've managed to stay clear of the "lice" type,
but bugs in general! - I can remember
the time when if an ant crawled on some
thing to eat - I threw it all ~~at~~ away.
Now - I knock most of em off of it, - and
eat away. - The ants now have to look
out for themselves! And other bugs - well,
there are too many in Africa to worry about.
If you turn over in bed - see something
strange in there with you, - reach down
and flick it out - at the same time uttering
some of your polished cuss words! - Polished
because you've used them so often its more
natural to speak in those terms, and
there can no longer be any rough edges
left!

You asked about Buckett. - Since we've
been here he has been sick - and couldn't
fly for awhile. - During that time, I rode
with a bunch of the old time pibbs.
Now that he is O.K. and flying again,
I'm still listed as his copilot and fly
with him occasionally. - He got his
captaincy just before we left the States.
Jim Carey - the navigator who came across

with us has been taken off our crew
and we've been given another fellow who
is a bombardier by training. - Jim was
a celestial navigator. Jim is in our tent
and all - but flies with someone else. - It
doesn't make much difference over here. - They
use each man for what he's trained for.
and you might draw anyone to fly with.
Then, too, - Jim has had hard luck in
Africa. - When we first joined our sqdn. -
he got malaria. - Then the other day, - just
after he got back to flying - he was in a
jeep when it turned over and is now in
the hospital with cuts and a broken
arm! - Bad Luck isn't the word for it.

Me, - I'm glad of our new arrangements,
too. While Bucket is one of the best
fliers - and I've learned a lot from him. -
I'm sorta glad to get to go with some of
the others. - While we are the best of
friends - and we seldom argue - there's just
a little something about our personalities
that doesn't quite click it off. It just
shows up once in awhile. We don't have
a whole lot of mutual interests - and yet we
do, - if you know what I mean.

✓ Guess I've been "catty" long enough now,
I'll change the subject almost. -

As I told you, I've been officially checked
out as a first pilot. - But so far, I've
still flown on our raids as copilot. - Just
around here locally in Africa do I fly
as first pilot. - Later on after I've built
up some more time and experience I'll
get my try at it. Anyhow - on missions
outside of taking off + landing - the pilot
and copilot share the time in flying. so
it really makes no difference.

I was certainly glad to get those pictures.
Don't know how I ever got away without
any pictures of anyone - but except for the
one of Janet, - I did! - Sometime you'll have
to send me one of Joe Joe + Family and the
C. E. Jr. I see in the ones of Janet + Blondie
I even have Matilda in the background
looking on!

Yes, Henry wrote me of his father's
heart attack. - Said he was pretty sick
for awhile, but thought that he was O.K.
again. Glad they, Henry + Phyl. - liked the
clothes brush.

About the Argus - think you should
send it - as I can get 35 mm film for it
from our photo section. I think I can also

get 'em developed but they are short on
the paper to print them on. I might have
to send for some of that later on! - It
would be better for me to get 'em
developed & printed here on my own - cause
sending the films back to the States entails
censoring - and some I'll have I know
will probably be censorable. Anyway,
you could & would still get the scenic
ones - and the ones of the gang. - Maybe
even one of me?

The cake - would be nice if you could
send it and not deprive yourselves of any
rationed article. Think we could worry it
down. - The candy - I know wouldn't stand
the shipping - and the ants would be in
it before I could. - Anyway - I'll make a
written statement asking for something
and you send it if you can or want
to without too much bother.

Brother wrote me telling of his getting
home at 3 A.M. and finding a "quarantine"
sign on his door!

Can't really think of anything more
to say, now - so guess I'll stop and
mail this. - Know you must be
getting as tired of reading this "crap"
as I am in writing it! So until

5/ next time - Bye & Love,
Frank.

P. S. Please send me my Argus camera
and ~~one~~ a roll or two of film. -

I would also like to have some
cake and/or candy if you can figure
out what could be sent without spilling.

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Does that do it? -

