

AIR CORPS
TRAINING DETACHMENT



Friday afternoon
June 12, 1942

Heya Folks,-

Did you think I had to make a forced landing in the wilds of Oklahoma? - Well, set yourselves at ease, - those so far, have only been simulated. - If I can go on the rest of the way with only simulated ones, I'll be O.K.!

I just came down from 4500 ft and golly, day, - I didn't realize it was quite so hot on the ground. It's sort of a disagreeable thing, - Maybe it's better to stay earth-bound and know not how much cooler it is elsewhere? - But then, maybe it's ~~due~~ to excitement to a certain extent. Why? - Well, it's this way. We've been doing spins and stalls, and as I said - this PT 19A ain't no cub! - I'm mastering them, tho, I think, and it's getting to be more fun every day. - It's getting where I don't have to watch the ship so much doing elementary stuff. I guess it's the old feel for flying creeping up on me again! I never know just how I'm doing cause the instructor doesn't follow the same schedule with me as with others. Instead of doing things in a definite manner, - he just seems to go up for fun! - Take today, for instance. He went up to practice spins for the 3rd day in a row, one

right after the other. - The others just get one or two before they solo, like I did at Congressional. - Then after awhile, he starts doing "snap rolls" - about three in a row - then turned to me and said, "you follow me thru on this one". - Hell, I did, so he said for me to do the next one by myself - so I did ^{two}. Before three days ago I never even saw one done and ^{that} was when he did it with me to show me what one was. - Lord! - I never saw anything happen so fast in my life! Whew! - I remember thinking to myself, "how can I learn to do 'em when I can't even tell what happens by watching?" - And here - I did 'em! - Not good, of course, but I did 'em! - Now ask you, how can I tell how I'm doing when all this stuff keeps on happening? 'Tomorrow, we are to start landings & take-offs,' he says - but what does that mean when he's been letting me do it all along whenever we took off or landed? I have 6 hrs., 10 mins. including today, so I would judge I'm coming up for solo by the first of the week anyhow! - But one never knows! - Once that happens my flying time will build up faster than ever. - It sure is lots better than sweating out 6 dollars then blowing it all in for one hour with no more flying for another month or so!

Ma, - you should see the planes here when the hour or half hour is up. - You never saw so many planes in your life, much less all trying to either land or take off at one and the same time! - Roughly guessing, there must be at least 60 planes on the flight line ready for

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CHICKASHA

OKLAHOMA

flight each day - or each hour, I should say! - And believe me, - don't think they aren't flown. - When they come in or go off, they look like a bunch of bugs or gnats! - Why, they land two & three all at one time, with some more coming in on their tails in the same way. Take off that way, too! - That's one of the hardest things for me to get used to. -

Don't think flying is all there is to this stuff, either! - I wish it were! - We go to ground school each morning and fly in the after-noon. - Next week we reverse. - But the ground school! - Ye gods! - You can thank that for no mail coming from me. - Each day we have about 20 to 25 pages of material to cover in each subject (2 at present) and we have a test on the material assigned each day as class begins. - No discussion before hand either! - We walk right into class and take the exam first thing. You either get it by reading or you don't get it. - Sometimes it takes over 2 hours to do the reading in one subject. - and that's not understanding it! - Just reading! It would be different if it were fiction or something, - but it's so damn technical it just won't sink in when you understand it. We cover everything so fast I don't see how they expect us to retain any of it. We read it, take a test on it, then read some more. - Monday they are pulling an exam in one subject (Engines & theory of flight) covering all. - That is, everything to date. - As we've covered some 150 pages

in a technical manual in the last week, where most every word is important. you can see the hopelessness of even thinking of reviewing for it. - Just go take it hoping you remember enough of it. - Don't worry, - you get over that! - There's always navigation to go to!! you'll think I'm complaining, but I'm not! - It's lots of fun, and I only hope I'm lucky enough to get there, but I wanted you to have an idea of what it's like. - Of course, there's other parts, too: drilling, calisthenics, hiking, and the like. - but there, well, - extra curricula? -

Oh! - I forgot to tell you! - Guess what? - I'm a committee, - all by myself! - In each class, the lower-classmen give the upper-classmen a dance when it's about time for the uppers to leave for Basic training. - Well, - our class is planning one for the 27th and I've been (chafted?) appointed "the" committee to take charge of the refreshments! - Can you beat that? - Any suggestions? - I'm thinking about cookies, cokes or some pop, - a frozen punch, and large layer cakes decorated to match the color theme and with some sort of wording like "Nuts to the upperclassmen" - or "Phooey"! - I know everyone will be furnishing their own refreshments so there's not much need for too much worrying. - Naturally, Oklahoma is a dry state, but you know what that means! - Now, of course, - if I were to get what the boys really would like to have, - well, - you can see my worries would be only on how to make the proper contact. - But really - all I have to do is to plan it and turn it over to the

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mess hall superintendent. - He does the rest & we both together OK the bills! - "Ain't" your son getting in the "upper crust" in more ways than one!

Later

Solly day it's hot. - At five o'clock it registered 106° in the shade! - And it's not summer here yet, "they tell me"! - When you think it's hot in Washington, just think twice - And you don't have to run around with a uniform buttoned up around your neck, and your sleeves rolled down! -

Here are some more pictures of "aviator Frank". List 'em up so some day you can say - "see this? - This is Frank before he got his commission - when he was a "student" pilot! - " Aw nuts! I'm so hot and the sweat (yes, I know only horses "sweat") is making my arms stick to the table so I'm quivering. -

Bye for now and Love

Frank

Saturday A.M. - 7:05 to be exact!

Have just heard the news of the tornado that struck last night! - I didn't suspect a tornado, but I did know the weather was awful "geray". - Late Yesterday afternoon when it got hotter than "hell" (if you'll pardon the expression) the air

got perfectly still. - not a breath of air. - at the time I wrote the first part - sweat would just pour off, just sitting still doing nothing. - Then around supper time a beautiful cumulonimbus cloud started to form quick as all get out. - It was a typical thunderstorm brewing but in view of the heat - that wasn't unusual. - Golly it was pretty - you could just watch it form - see the big puffs develop and go up getting larger all the time. - With all of us studying meteorology, most of us were watching it. - Anyhow, at bed time it was just about ready to let loose (we had bets as to the exact minute!). - Then instead of rain - a real cool breeze building up to a good wind with dust ~~instead of rain~~! - We closed our windows and the dust still beat in! - Nothing unusual. I just thought, "well, - here's my first bonified dust storm!" - Anyhow - this morning when we got up, - the ~~floor~~ only clean place on our bed was where our bodies had been - the rest all dirt! - Just like sleeping in a tent, not in a building with the windows closed! - Oh, well, - no tornado. Oklahoma City is only 40 miles from here and we're west of it, sorta southwest, so when the storm struck west, - it ~~couldn't~~ have missed us much. - This A.M. is dark and windy (still dusty) so maybe we haven't seen the last of it. - It's a cinch there'll be no flying this morning for awhile! -

Here are some pictures that have been snapped from time to time. - I have some others that would really be swell had I had my camera instead of a box one. -

Almost time for another inspection, so bye for now and don't let any tornadoes get you! -

WJ