



THE AVON PARK BOMBING RANGE
AVON PARK, FLORIDA

Saturday
Jan 26, 1943

Hello folks,-

Guess I can write you on Saturdays just as well as wait for Sundays, can't I? Especially as I have time now- and we're on a seven^{day} week basis anyhow!-

We haven't done a heck of a lot since being here.- As soon as we start ground school + stuff we'll have as busy a schedule as we ever did as a cadet- but it sure has been nice not having any more to do than we've had.- Of course with my not being up to snuff- it's just suited me fine.- So far- after the first week or 10 days of pawing over the planes- we've done no more than to be present on the flight line half a day, plus a course lecture in Radio Navigation + Link Trainer. I manage to whittle in a bit of flying from time to time but so far- only a little bit.

To date they have,- with the exception of a mere handful of us- turned all of the bunch of pilots I came with into copilots- and they will leave for combat training very shortly.- I don't know

how I've managed to survive, unless it's been Joe's powers again. - At present it looks as tho I'll have a swell chance of going thru as a first pilot, with the possibility of remaining in the sqdn as an "instructor pilot" checking others out. - You can never tell! Maybe I'll win out - but so far - they've picked fellows all around me - phew! I flew around a couple of hours yesterday - mostly just getting familiar with the plane and the way it handles. - Think it will be nice once I get on to it, but shepherding 15 or so tons around is a little different from 3!

We flew around - shot several landings, and flew around again. - Along the way - I saw this "Bok Tower" you've heard so much about. - I pointed to it. - asked my instructor if that was what it was. - and he said yes. - Where upon he took over the controls - and promptly proceeded to give me a close up view! - We let down to the same height as the tower - and then passed it with it just off our wing tip - and us doing better than 200 mph! - What I saw of it was pretty anyhow!

Been feeling most myself yesterday and today. - The first time since a day or so after I got here. - I went to the doctor's last Monday A.M. and gave him the low down of how I had felt



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and what I had done for myself. - He seemed to think it nothing more than a problem of adapting my stomach to our food + water. - Told me to wait several days and then come back if I didn't get over it. - I finally persuaded him to give me a dose of "paragoric" - and he in turn gave me a small-pox vaccination - a typhoid shot, and a tetanus injection - a fair exchange - I suppose! - Just like my first days in the Army. - It seems there had been too long a period since my last shots so instead of a "booster" shot - I have to take in all once again!

- Well, - to make a long story short - I've felt like the devil all week till yesterday - the first day I've felt anywhere near my ol' self. - But then something else developed. - I had taken to itching all over and Thursday night - the whites of my eyes turned sorta yellowish! - So yesterday in spite of feeling better - thought maybe me + doc had better have another conflat! - And what did he say? - three guesses. - Mauna says I was born with it so it looks as tho I've progressed backwards in time, and at the present - am no better off than the day I was born! - He says I've got "yellow jaundice"!!!

Said - my first symptoms - must have been the beginning of it - but it took the "shots" to bring it to the surface so as to be visible! He wanted to put me into the hospital for a complete diagnosis but I persuaded him to wait. - being as how I was feeling better. - Anyhow - as it now stands. - He gave me a list of what to and ^{what} not to eat, and I am to see him Monday morning regardless - or sooner if I start feeling bad again! He said the only thing the hosp. would do was to give me the correct diet - but that there was no real reason why I should go as long as I tried to eat right and kept my bowels open.

Don't know what will happen. - I want to get in enough time to insure my "first pilot" before I give in. - especially if it gets no worse. - But I know as soon as he finds out about some "gadgets" I have, what will happen. - And it will be better all around when it does, I guess. - But as things now stand - I know what's ailing me - and as long as I continue getting better - I'm not worrying too much - so don't you. It's just one of "these things"! -

I got a very nice letter writing kit + tie from Carl today. - It was marked "belated greetings". - It was awfully nice - but very unnecessary! -

This darn Florida weather - one day we freeze and the next we must roast. - especially in our woolen clothes with all this humidity. - I still will take some other parts of the country for my part. - I think. Bye for now - and be good. Don't worry over me! Love Frank