

LUBBOCK ARMY FLYING SCHOOL

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Sunday A.M. -
Oct 25, 1942

Hello, Folks,

Sunday morning again with flying scheduled for this afternoon. Tho, - I have my doubts as to whether we will fly. - It's blown up extra cold and the skies are pretty low. - again - if I were home I'd say snow - but in Texas - anything can and usually does happen.

Say, - you must have had a real sho nuff flood up there. - I haven't seen a paper in a week, - but from your letters it must have been a humdinger. - It's too bad I wasn't down the P.A.U. helping to move all the furniture from the basement! Tho this time there wouldn't have been so much menial labor as before - more of a directive force, shall we say? - If that's the case it really is too bad I wasn't there!! - A mental case, that's all, nothing to worry about!

Boy, oh, boy, - I've really had my ups and downs this week! - I've kidded and joked a lot about washing out, but it was too close to home this time to even have any

resemblances to being funny. - I was a worried
feller. - You know I told you we have 2 types
of planes here - both twin engine. - One is used
more or less as a transitional ship and the other
is truly a hot ship that requires the attention
of the pilot at every instant. - Well. - I also told
you how I was the last of my group to be
checked out - because of the alphabetical arrange-
ment. When there came time for me to fly, all
the transitional ships were being used elsewhere
so I was started on the "hot stuff" from scratch.
Everything went swell - I could fly it and
liked it. - but when it came to landing it. - I just
wasn't there. - I had most twice the time on it
as most of 'em got - and I still couldn't land it. -
It was the damndest feeling I ever had. - Here I
was - one of the first to solo at Primary + Basic
and in Advanced where one practically can't
'wash out'. - I was ~~the~~ about the last one and
consequently nearing the start of ~~illumination~~
rides! - - - My instructor said he had never run
up on a case like mine and didn't know what the
heck to do - and I'm sure I didn't. - He said he knew
I could fly. - else I'd never have gotten this
far - but what now. - Well. - there were certain
little things, mannerisms about his instructing
that worried me - (for instance, I could always
feel him on the controls + stuff) so as I'd figured

LUBBOCK ARMY FLYING SCHOOL

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

I was lost anyhow - we had a heart to heart talk and I told him some of the things about his instructions that were different than I'd ever had before and how and why they annoyed me. Instead of getting mad, he said I might really have something there and got another instructor, who graduated when he did, but who had had lots of civilian flying before getting in the Army. - This other instructor took me up, - had me do a lot of air work and then we started landings. - This time he did it more like I'd been taught, and I did lots better - but still no go. I wasn't consistent - one time I'd land O.K. and the next time we would almost crack up, except for the instructor's help. - Soooo - we came back. Both instructors cross examined me as to my landing in Primary & Basic and came to the conclusion that due to eye strain the last of Basic - my depth of perception must be off. - They were going to send me to the flight surgeon for a check up. Then - the flight commander stepped in! - He said to try me on the transitional ship, and then if I had the same trouble - to go to the doctor! - So, again yesterday. I went up and in less than half the normal time allotted to solo it - I soloed. -!

Whew, what a relief! I've never sweated so much in an awful long time. - I flew for about 3 hrs 30 min yesterday - doing nothing but landing & taking off - with not a bad landing among 'em. - Now the theory is that after a few hours on this ship, I can walk in the old A.T. 9. and land it, too! - I Hope!!! Anyhow, my instructor is a changed man and I have at least partially regained some of my self-confidence.

The second instructor came up to me yesterday before I flew and talked to me. - He told me not to worry about "washing out" cause after getting this much training they wouldn't get anyone out if they could help. - He said that if it were my eyes, well, two weeks of rest would fix 'em up. - Another instructor, (who was my instructor's instructor!) talked to me too. - He said he had had a student last class who had the same trouble I've had. - and if & when I have the same trouble - to come to him & he was sure he could help me - and that there was no chance of washing now and to forget all that's passed. He is a smart man - cause I've already forgotten.

But one more dissertation - if wasn't no fun sitting down thinking about getting this near, being returned to a private - and what to tell folks back home! - But now that doesn't have to be done, thank goodness!

Yesterday a man was here taking orders for our announcements, calling cards, & class rings! Our rings are very similar to the West Point's but

LUBBOCK ARMY FLYING SCHOOL

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

with the more appropriate designs of the Air Forces. They had 'em with imitation garnet stones, and black onyx. - I got the black onyx one. - They are really too expensive, but I got one anyhow. - I've had the occasion at times to wish I had had a high school or college ring, - so I knew this would mean even lots more to me, - so I got it anyhow. The calling cards I had to get 'cause officers ^{had} to fulfill the Army's own brand of Army ~~etiquette~~ etiquette!

I guess next will come my uniforms and a foot locker or so. - Who said an officer didn't cost. -? My clothing allowance of \$50 when I graduate will take care of most of it, tho. - And after I get my commission, being on a flying status - I'll draw nearly \$300 per month, - so maybe I'll manage to survive!! - Want a borrow some money?

See, - you folks better buy plenty of woollen clothes to keep warm with. - 65% of the oil you used last winter isn't much and you gotta keep warm. Better get some more wood, too! -

I'm enclosing an article I saw in the paper about "hick trainees" at Goodfellow. Thought I you would understand the whys & wherefores of 'em better.

All. - I'll end this "book" now - so until next time -
and don't worry about me - I'm ok now! -

Love
Frank