

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

Hello, Folks! -

Sunday August 15th! - Guess were I 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 Repsodent that I
can take my 'Dium' 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 hospitals
on his trail before they ^{told us they} had taken
him further back from the lines. - No
one seemed to have any records as to
when - 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 Sulfaguanadine from the Doc, - but a couple of days saw me O.K. again. - I 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 aint no joke". - Course, we have our own name for

the malady - but don't think Ma
would particularly appreciate our "terminology".

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 its really not supposed to be, and some stick straight to their French. - For instance, - ~~the~~ ^{the other night} one of the gals sang, "~~that~~ ^{she} be coming around the mountain when she comes" - After several verses - she hit the ~~note~~ 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 three times, she asked us to sing it with her. - He did even to "killing the old dead

3/ rooster! - Don't believe she ever caught on, - but of course it served ~~its~~ ^{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 supposedly so cut and dried, I just couldn't help ^{but} think of the pilot's reaction receiving a similar ~~reactions~~ ^{reply} as I did - a pilot in the states, I mean. - It went something like this: - Me, - "Tower from 293, number one in take off 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.

couldn't 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 sorts
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!

I 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 ^{grainings} - 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, who 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 even thank Daddy for his Birthday card? It came about a week after the others. Also got a V mail from Brother Fred, written 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, I 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. - "Lily" has had
several come thru - and in good condition.

Glad Mrs. Ames called - I 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 -
reas - but maybe I haven't. - I'll drop in
another one of these days! -

-- Well, - more next time -

Love,
Frank