

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.

A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.

Sept. - 5, 1943

Hija Folks,

Here 'tis - another week - another Sunday - and another 24 hour job as Officer of the Day! - But this time my duty is just on paper so doesn't mean much. - I don't have to report anywhere. - I don't have to do anything - and my day is just a normal one here at camp. - The only thing is, there's supposed to be an O.D. in case any wandering person might stop by in a taxi and enquire if we have one! - That's about all! - So far no one has enquired, so I think I'll go hop in a plane and go for a ride!

— Later —

Didn't get very far with this for my first try, did I. - Just after I started it, one of the fellows called me up from "operations" and wanted to know if I wanted to fly! - What do you think the answer was? - I wasn't scheduled for the mission today, so I had my usual holiday - and flew!

It was sorta warm on the ground, but before we got thru, we were shivering. - We went up to 19,000 ft and enjoyed a little zero temperature in our summer khakis! - He went to turn on the "cabin heat" - and found we had none on that particular plane - woe was us - but it felt good for no longer than we stayed there. He couldn't have stayed there longer anyway, for we were not equiped for flying

at such an altitude. - He had no oxygen masks or anything - which is supposed to be necessary at anything over 10,000 ft. Actually, we shouldn't have been there anyhow - because due to the lack of oxygen - your whole ^{system} suffers somewhat - but mainly, your reactions aren't as fast. - But maybe I'd better stop before I scare you to death! - Don't get worried, tho, it probably won't happen again, - and besides, we have to keep life from getting too dull! -

Oh, yes - another "first" I can add to my lists. He tuned in some church services on the Radio while flying along at 9,000 ft.! I had never thought about participating in such while flying. - What is it Daddy says - "Little do we know"?

Got some more mail. - It comes in pretty regular now. - One from Daddy (a regular one) written on the ^{Aug 8}th. - And even one from Alva! - During the last week I got ~~and~~ ^{an} old one from Ma written on July 2nd, and one from Sister on Aug. 3rd! - Then some V mail from all of you. - I won't try to tell you all of 'em for I know you have a hard enough time keeping track of Brother's train schedule in his letters! (Howya, Brother?)

I'm starting to pester the mails every day now. Fred keeps writing me my package, whatever it is, ought to be popping in here any day now! (Which package is it? - I naturally assume he means my "cake" one.)

Guess Fred is winding up his vacation tomorrow, being known officially as, "Labor Day."

Hope he managed to get his grass properly cut! The crazy nut wrote me he cursed it when it needed cutting, but when it didn't rain for long spells - he ran out and watered it so ~~it~~ it would be able to get long enough to cut! -

How are the bicycle lessons coming along? Being as Blondie has a basket on one of them, & take it Marion is doing O.K. now. - And from what I last heard, Sister was about ready to "solo" - How did it go? - Has the weather cooled off enough for Ma to show her "tricks" yet? - Wanta watch it, Ma, - it's been a long time, and besides, you wouldn't want to get Daddy started cause he's liable to show you up - remember - he has practiced from time to time!

Our club is just about done now. - It has gotten to the point where no one works on it, ~~figg~~ figuring it's so close to being done, that some one else can finish it - not me. - You know how it works. - Don't know when the official opening will be. -

In Alvin's letter, she ~~was~~ remembered that I didn't like ^{the smell of} fish water(?) and hoped that I hadn't had to do any K.P.! - Shall I write her and put her wise as to the duties of an officer? - Poor thing - she said she had wondered about the WAVES & WACS -! - I couldn't imagine anything that would give her a worse of a "jouncing" into the "world" - but in spite of it - if she got no more out of it than not being Lolita's house-keeper - think it would be worth it for her sake!

The nights here are beginning to get a bit on the chilly side again. - The days ^{are} still warm. - It never has been too bad at night, tho. - Being as we are in the open - the ground cools off after dark and we get the immediate effects of the cooling. - I can notice the difference the few nights when duty has required me to stay in a building. - The buildings never cool off, so I guess sleeping in the open has its advantages, after all. -

Sister said you had gotten the Stars + Stripes I mailed you and that you enjoyed it. - Well, yesterday I wrote in and subscribed to it for you. - Unless I hear other-wise - you should start getting it soon. - It's just a paper printed by the Army for the Army. - Sometimes it's pretty good and it's printed in Army style - as we live it. - Course, same as other papers. - all is not reliable - but there it's something. - I think it's printed every day - but we only get to see the week-end edition at times. -

As per usual - seems that there's something else I was going to say. - but what? - Oh, well, - I'll scratch it up in a V-mail if I don't put it off to tell you in a regular letter - always a vicious circle!

Saw a movie shot on D. C. last night! - Recent, too, as lots of the buildings + scenes ~~at~~ in it, weren't even in the "talking of" stage when last I knew. - And some new buildings since last December. Guess I wouldn't know the old place - but I'd like to have the ~~the~~ chance to try! -

Lots of Love,
Frank