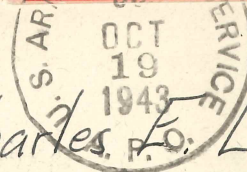


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432 Sqdn, 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.



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October 17, 1943

Hello Folks,

Here it is, Sunday again, and I'd better start this letter now or maybe I won't even get the chance to start one! - I've got this morning free, but by the time I shave and go to the chapel - there won't be much of it left. (It's the first chance I've had to go to church in about 2 months so can't afford to miss it. Have to go once in awhile to renew my acquaintance, ya know!)

This afternoon I'm scheduled to fly 3 hours of formation, and after wrestling about 17 tons around the sky I'm afraid I won't be much in the writing mood. - These nice cool mornings are swell for flying - but by the afternoon, there's such a temperature change and the sky is so rough that it is a damn good job to fly a single ship straight and level - so just imagine formation! - First the other ships are lifted, then you are lifted. About the time you are lifted, the others have been dropped again. - Physics call them convection currents - but you'd be surprised at what we call it. - Nothing so polite, I assure you!

This schooling period is much more work than the real thing. - So far, I've flown every day

for the last week - and sometimes twice!
That never happened before, unless I just wanted
to - but now I'm scheduled and can't get
out of it! - Oh, well. it keeps me busy and
time really passes quickly, so I should kick.
Sometimes it passes too quickly if you have
anything in a personal nature you want done.

We have had quite a change in the
commanders lately - Both Groups Sqdn. - Due
mostly to the old ones finishing up and
going home. - Some are good and others - we
don't know about yet. - Time can tell. - Did I
tell you about running into Capt. Belma the
day I was a courier for "iving"? - I believe I did
but I'll review it anyway. - Capt Belma was
the C.O. of the 488th Sqdn at Avon when we left
there. - He, too, eventually, was sent over seas
arriving about 6 weeks ago. - I've run into him
several times at different places and we had
become quite chummy. - And now - under the
latest changes - damned if he hasn't been made
the Commanding officer of the 432 Sqdn! It won't
mean anything to me, of course. - but damn if
it isn't funny how things work out. - In a
like manner Buckert has received a promotion,
due to his rank upon coming over seas! - He has
been made the Sqdn operations officer and eventually
will receive a "majority" because the position
calls for such rank. - He really stepped into luck!

Lately I've been flying - teamed with another copilot who has "checked out." - We change around - first he flies as first pilot, then the next day I do. Today, however I have a full crew - and a new co-pilot who hasn't "checked out" - so. guess I'll be having a little more work than usual. - It's not bad when you both are capable - and can split it up.

Am enclosing some pictures in this letter. Don't know which ones yet, but will pick three and choose some. - Gradually, I will get the film to you, too. - I'll cut the roll into small strips of about 6 pictures. - By the notations on the back of the pictures you will know what they are of when you get the larger ones made. - Some of them I'd like several duplicates, as in the case of the one of "our crew" and on those. I'll put a number on the back indicating the number of copies I'd like to have! O.K.? - O.K.

Boy, oh boy - these nights sure are getting a mite on the chilly side! - Last night I had the equivalent of 5 blankets and towards morning it wasn't a bit too many. Makes a difference sleeping out of doors where you get the full benefit of the earth's cooling off along with the heavy dew we've been having lately! Have you waked up in the morning and "seen your breath" even before getting out of bed? - No, I bet not for a long time, anyway. - But that's what I did this morning! It's beginning to take quite a bit of salesmanship

to get me "out" of a mornings - especially if we
arent scheduled as this morning! - If it wasn't
for the fact, for quite some time now, breakfast
was our best meal of the day - doubt if it
could be done!

Speaking of food - don't know where it is
going - but we sure aren't getting it. - Must be
getting "short stopped" by the Quartermaster along the
way. (See how we get along with the QM? - as
soon as we begin to be deprived of what we
should have the QM gets the blame! - Don't know
whether they are at fault or not, but it doesn't
make much difference - they still get blamed! -
And people wonder why the QM never seems to
get along with any other section of the Army! -)

This ol' ground around here sure is startling.
A month or so ago it was so hard and barren that
except for the dust - it was likened unto cement.
Let some rain come - and what do you find? - Things
in the fields literally jump from the ground, and
from the very hardest of spots, formerly - flowers,
"crocuses" (?) jump out, without even being bent
from the effort of breaking through! - Guess you
can never really tell what will happen.

— Monday - Oct. 18.

Didn't get a chance to finish this, as
you can see, - but it's a good thing. - Yesterdays
mail brought me a regular letter from Daddy,
dated Sept. 5th - and a package - mailed on

Aug. 30. ! - The letter was welcomed - so long and newy - and the package - well - don't go into that - just guess ! - It contained a can of assorted candies and 2 cans of peanuts ! - The candy is already being "hit" pretty hard - but I'll save the peanuts until one night when I have that "hungry feeling" ~~th~~ and can find nothing to satisfy - And that won't be long, you can bet ! -

I wasn't scheduled today - the first time in a week - and I'm really enjoying myself - Been taking things very easy and doing things I've been promising myself to do for some time. Even got around to polishing my brass buckle - so now you know ! Our flight yesterday went off pretty good and outside of a blister on my hand gotten from fighting that "wheel" around, & A good night's sleep has restored all !

Been working on my "log book" this morning and find I'm getting near the end of it - So would appreciate it if someone would get me a "Pilot's Log book" & one of these days and enclose it in a package whenever one happens to be coming this way. No rush, - just happened to think of it after writing in it - Also, would like to have a mechanical pencil to use up the lead you so kindly sent me ! - Mine went on the fritz some time ago - and one of the enlisted men was going to fix it for me - but he never seems to

find the time or proper tools at one and the same time. - Nothing expensive - just so it works and - also no rush.

Last night after we came down from flying, we saw an entertainment sponsored by the "theater gild" - Saw Adolph Menjou who was master of ceremonies. - He looked exactly as he does in the movies. - There were several soldier entertainers, too. - For femininity, there was "Anna Lee" who was both good and very very beautiful (ah me) and Tony Mason (whoever she is) who sang several songs for us. - Very unexpected and enjoyable - except I still say they shouldn't send such pretty gals over here when we can't even get close to em!

Hell, - here goes - I'll knock off for dinner now. - I'm enclosing all the pictures I can send. Don't know whether my invention will hold them all together or not. - Wanted to keep them from "munching" and at the same time I wanted you to be able to read the notations on the index. - Will send the negatives next time.

Bye now + lots + lots of love from
Frank