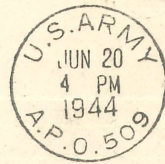


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432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, % Postmaster N.Y.C.



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U.S.A.

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June 18, 1944

Hiya, Folks,

'Tis Sunday again, so true to my word hyar 'tis! And more than Sunday - a sort of memorial day. One year ago today I went on my first mission and of all places to go, it was right here in dear ol' Sardinia! And no slouch of a one either - It is classified as a rough one among my memories, in spite of the fact that my first one would have seemed rough to me, even had it been a milk-run! - Guess by rights I could say it was a rough, rough one then?

Had a little variety yesterday. Got some mail in for a change. - A Vmail

from Sister plus a regular one from
 Henry & Phyl, plus - to all surprised -
 one from MA! That last one, in
 particular, just shows that anything
 can happen, and usually does!.

No fooling, tho. I was very tickled to get
 them for our mail has been extremely
 slow of late. Don't know just why, but
 hope it's because the boats are being
 used otherwise!

It sure doesn't look like I will get to
 see Henry before he goes in the Army,
 not unless I get a move on fast, that
 is. Oh well, hope he isn't stationed too
 far away from D.C. 'cause maybe I
 can get to see him anyhow. - He can
 always meet at some Army post and get
 a few drinks together at ~~the~~ the officers
 club - provided he has the forethought

of getting himself stationed somewhere where they have an airport. - 'Cause somehow or other my 'stations' always seem to be closely connected with flying fields! - Can't ever seem to get where there are no airplanes. - (I'd go nuts if I did!).

Real Cool weather has hit us again for the last couple of days. We've just summerized our tent, so it makes it all quite inconvenient. We could revert back to what we had with about an hour's work, but sure as we do - comes the hot weather again - with the process of snowing again. The easiest course lies in staying a little chilly and not exerting ourselves, naturally. Anyway, the cool nights makes us sleep the sleep of the just, and if we can sleep,

who are we to complain? - Getting used to a house and walls and stuff will be strictly a novelty, I kid you not.

Our club is coming along very nicely - the addition, I mean, as long as I can keep the supplies coming in faster than the labours can use it up, I think maybe I can have the place ready to use before this next week is finished. It will really be quite nice - a large screened in porch to serve ~~as~~ ^{as} our dining hall, with the club & bar adjoining. - A kitchen is also being added there, so we can have our own meals prepared separately. - With this new set up we will have small tables seating four and be able to bring up eggs - getting them cooked something on the "short order" style!

You know with everything being set up so nicely we will surely be due to move soon! - It always happens so, just with the advent of civilized touches!

Have me a real job of instructing now. - We got some brand new, just graduated pilots who have never seen an operational type aircraft before. - Think it must have been a slip up somewhere, but the fact remains, they are here & have to be trained before they are any good to us. - Can't even go out as Co-pilots, of course for between what they've been flying - and these - well daresay they couldn't even start one of these engines up! - Any way, - think it will probably fall my lot to teach at least one of 'em. - Poor kids! - But hope it won't be too bad for I can still remember the things I never

got, and should have, from an instructor! At least it is sorta fun to try my hand at it and see how I can do. - I never had pilots to work on before, - always been teaching ground men when I really had to start from scratch!

Major Belma, our old sqdn. C.O. in Avon who came over here and was our C.O. again - just dropped in to pay me a visit. - He has been missing since November. Sure seemed nice to see him and sincerely hope I never have to experience any of his adventures. That leaves Joe Buchert still missing but we have been notified that he is a Prisoner of War.

Nothing new on our going home status. - I just sit back, sorta "resignedly" waiting and hoping for

a surprise most any day. Still go on missions occasionally, just to stay up among the top few. Hope all I have to go on are real milk runs. - So keep your fingers crossed for a while more.

Thanks for your poem you sent Ma. - The sentiment is expressed very nicely. We all hope and pray our home coming may be realized soon and safely.

And, Daddy - what kind of a day have you had? - Today is Father's Day you know! - Sorry I couldn't send you a remembrance - but just wait - we will more than make up for it when I get back!

Guess maybe I'd better be signing off now - but will write again soon. Tell Dad his order he sent me. didn't have

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the proper authorization! -

Lots of Love.

Frank