

Thu. July 8th, 1943,
11.00 a.m.

In North Africa.

Dear Mom and Dad;

After 3 long months I've gotten a letter from my best girl too, who? Why you of course Mom. Gee it was swell to hear from home. You mailed it on June 6th and I got it yesterday, July 7th. Where the rest of my mail is I don't know. But I hope it comes through soon. In your letter you speak of Felix and I being knifed together. That must have been when we were in Brazil & South Africa. It was in Accra, S.A. that we parted. He went to India and I came up here. I hope he has made out as well as I have. I'd sure like to meet up with him again. When you get this letter call Marie and tell her what's in it, so she can write Felix. Give her my A.P.O. too so she can send it to Felix. Then he can write me I don't know his A.P.O..

So Bill is engaged, what next? Where is he Mom do you know? I'd like to drop him a line. As for Adrian I think she is full of bull, but if she does get married give her my best wishes. Who did Dolly get engaged to? Do I know him or was it some one at work? She is stepping sorta fast isn't she?

So Dot and Frank got together. Gee, I'd have given my right arm to be with them. All that time that we were only 200 miles from each other and we couldn't get together. Its a shame and a crime that's what it is. Was it a pass she got or a furlough? Where is Dot stationed now? I'll have to write her and congratulate her on being a corporal. If I don't watch my step, she'll pass me up. I hear ~~me~~ I'm to get Staff Sgt. when it will be I don't know but they say that eventually I'll get it, probably another month or two. There is an O.C.S. at Ft. Bennington Mom, so maybe that's where Frank is going, that's only 200 miles away.

From your letter it looks like everyone is being drafted better tell the "Chief" to go into hiding.

The names of my crew are. Pilot Lt. R.B. Allison from Oregon, Co-Pilot Lt. R.F. Fletcher from Mass. Bombaiere-Staff Sgt. C. Brown from Miss. Radio man C.A. Campbell from Ohio and me. That Lt. Wood was the Arament Officer at Columbia, he's still there.

That's too bad about Gran Mom you better keep an eye on her. Tell her and Pop I was asking for them. Now that the Shieldses have a farm in Brooklyn. I'll probably come home to a life at the horse and plow. Please don't let it get too large the neighborhood will probably want you to feed them.

Boy am I glad I'm in the army. Your painting the house and me in the army, that suits me fine. Please have it all done when I get back I don't like that sort of work. What is Kate working at Mom? She isn't a private secretary is she? That's dam good money she's making. Has my allotment started to come yet, I hope so. I know you need the money.

So the temperature is 87. Boy I wish it was that here we'd have to put on fur coats if it were. The average temp. here from day to day runs from 115° to 125°. The best we have had was 144° and that's no bull----, but the nights are always cool, so its not too bad. I haven't met any one from home that I know, but I've met a lot of Brooklyn boys and we have a good time "batting the breeze".

I've already told you in another letter that I've been going to church and Communion. I'm going to krrp gooin too, as often as possible.

Say Mom here is something I think you would like to know, you can pass the word around too. I want you to know what a wonderful job the Red Cross is doing over here. Enough can't be said for them. All the way across every time we landed we were met by a R.C. truck with sandwiches and coffee.

And here at the base after every mission we get doughnuts & coffee ~~mm~~ or lemonade. They'll send money home for us, or look up a buddie to do anything we want. Believe me Mom they are doing a wonderful job. Anything we ever give them we get back double.

Say how are Gil and Eileen making out. I haven't heard from them in months.

Tell Jackie Keck I was asking for him. I'd appreciate it if he would remember me in his prayers too.

Now Mom the big news. I've gotten my first medal. I hope it won't be the last. It's the air medal. We get them for taking part in 5 missions. For every 5 after the first 5 we get an Oak Leaf Cluster. I only have one more mission to go to get my first cluster. The extract that comes from G.H.Q. saying that we get the medal says, "For meritorious achievement while participating in five sorties (missions) against the enemy" Every one that takes part in the mission gets them, so they aren't too outstanding. But it's a medal and it means a lot to a guy. Now don't go bragging about me to the neighborhood I didn't do anything that hundreds of other guys didn't do, but I'm proud of it and know you will be too. As yet there is no air medal, it hasn't been made up yet. What we get is a ribbon, a yellow one which means that at such times as the medal is made up, we'll get one.

Well I can't think of much more to say. If my mail starts coming in I'll do my best to write long interesting letters, but until then, I'm afraid you'll have to be satisfied with short ones, with the exception of this one.

I'll say good-by for a while Mom and Dad, write soon and often and pray hard.

Love always.

Joe.

This letter arrived July 15th. That was 6 days but I see by the papers a passenger clippers arrived with 12 days of mail last Dec, so that's why this arrived so quickly. I told him you were in hopes of getting 7/5 so I guess he figures you a Corporal. Jackie Keck came in today for Joe's address he had a Mass Card to send Joe in which he was enrolled for the duration, said he wanted also send one to Fall. They are from St John's Church 31st & 7 Ave, N.Y. Awfully nice of him I think. After the invasion Joe must have a bunch of Oak Clusters. From the way this letter ends up I think Joe must have known the invasion was on its way. I do hope all our mail catches up with him. My last letter was dated June 10 and I know he must have written others in between. He mentions having written that he was going to church regularly. I never got

that one. Maybe they'll come along later. I wish
the clippers would arrive every week. I answered
this letter immediately also sent some snaps I
had of the kids and garden. Had a letter from
Helen and she says no one has heard from
Alfred in 6 weeks - Jess has been home on a 10
day furlough and goes back July 1st. He
wants them to come down for the launching of
his destroyer, the 23rd of July - If they do Helen
says I may see her and Al. That's all
the news. Davy Joe got your card.

Love from Mother.

Still waiting for an answer to my last two letters.
Have given up all thoughts of getting a job
By the time they deduct 20% and all the other
things I'd only be getting about 11.00 a week.

Sent Sam a copy