

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

In North Africa,

Deam 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 ~~with~~ 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 whats 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 thats 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 coropral. If I don't watch my step, she'll pass me up. I hear ~~is~~ 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 thats where Frank is going, thats 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.

Thats 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 Bklyn. 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 secetary is she? Thats 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 h 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 thats no bull----, but the nights are always cool, so its not too bad. I have' nt met any one from home that I know, but I've met alot of Bklyn boys and we have a good time "batting the breeze"

ISve already told you in another letter that I've been going to church and Communion. I'm going to krrp goin 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 my a R.C. truck with sandwiches and coffee.

And here at the base after every mission we get doughnuts & coffee ~~xxx~~ or lemonade. They'll send money home for us, or look up a buddy 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-bye for a while Mom and Dad, write soon and often and pray hard.

Love always.

Joe.

Sam
Joe.
This letter arrived July 15. That was just 6 days - but
the papers stated a Clipper had arrived with ~~80~~ 12
bags of mail - hence the prompt service. Was telling
Joe. Not expected 7/5 so I guess he thinks she already
has it. Jackie Clark has a very nice enrollment card
he's sending Joe, he's enrolled for the duration by the
Vicentians at St John's Church 31st St 7 Ave, N Y City.
I think he's also going to get you one, awfully nice
of him I think. Don't you think from Joe's letter he
knew the invasion was to start soon. By now he
must have a jangy of Oak Clusters. I do hope all
our mail catches up with him. I know between
June 10th [his last letter] and this one July 8th he
must have written others. He mentions going to
Church regularly. That one I never got. They'll
probably all arrive later. I wish this Clipper

wanted arrive every week. Had a letter from
Helen, no one has heard from Alfred in 6 weeks -
Tom is home on a 10 day furlough - but goes back
July 17th - He wants Helen to come down for the
launching of his destroyer, so if they do the guys I
may see them.

No other news - How school coming?
Sent Dot a copy

Love from Mark

Have given up all thoughts of getting a J.R. - by the
time they deduct 20% plus all the other things I'd
probably get about 11.00 - not worth it.

244-8781
Bbfr



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