



U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS

Lat. Date

9:30

3-20-43

Dear Grandma + Fred

I'll bet you tho't I had
either forgotten you completely
or didn't appreciate the toy
you sent me but you're very
much wrong. The box was
swell + got here in perfect
shape. It really made a hit
with all the boys. You see when
one of us gets a toy we have
to pass it around + it didn't last
long. It really was swell tho' +
came at a very opportune time
- just when the food out here was
at its worst. It never has been
much good but has been improving
somewhat of late.

Now that I am about to be
shipped I'm trying to catch

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upon my letters Loue. I
have been writing two every day -
one home + one to Ruth
Carr - you know - The Pracker's
daughter from Cincinnati. I owe
so many letters I'll soon catch
up. I did write The Stealing
+ The South but was never
sure what your address was.
Beside that - I wrote that where
I was in St. Pete is a hotel
+ had more time but now I
don't have hardly any time + am
usually dead tired.

It was really nice in the
hotel. We were there for a week
+ they sent out for L. We're
only 7 mi from St. Pete but
don't get much chance to get into
town. We live in tents, wash
clothes, take showers, shave, etc
is cold water, sleep on cots with



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only two blankets (that is enough now but it was really cold when we first got out here), eat off mess kits (up till a week ago we had food on the ground to eat but we now eat off picnic tables), have a walk about a half mile to the out-house, have no electricity yet (I'm writing by candle light now), walk 2 1/2 miles to the drill field, have about an hour in the morning & an hour in the afternoon of tough exercises & then spend the rest of the time drilling. Had one day of ^{sub} machine gun & rifle practice in the rifle range. I shot an 81 out of a possible 100, & make things as tough as they possibly can for us.

I'm on the alert now after 4 weeks of this mighty tough

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life & I'm mighty happy to
be about to ship & leave this place.
I am glad tho' that in spite of
tho' is convenient I'm glad I've
experienced it all because if I
should get across I'll be prepared
for the same kind of life if
necessary. I will probably leave
here Mon. or Tues. - the 22nd or
23rd - & go somewhere - anywhere
in the U.S. to a Radio Operator &
Mechanics school for 3 or 4 months
& then to Aerial Gunnery School for
6 to 8 weeks & then maybe a
further & then overseas which is
just what I want. The sooner
the better.

I don't suppose I'll have much
time when I'm in school for writing
letters. I'm pretty sure I'm
going to be sent back up North



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because we are wearing summer uniforms - Khakis - down here & all going to wear winter uniforms when we leave. It's just as soon stay in the South but I might be sent to Chicago or Detroit & that would be quite close to home).

The weather was quite cool when we first got here but is really hot now. It'll keep getting hotter until Sept. or Oct. when it is really hot then it'll cool off a little till Feb.

I've been paid \$2 & a incentive pay in the Army 6 weeks & am supposed to get another one about the middle of April. I sure hope so - I'm about broke.

I've another letter to write
so I'll close hoping I can
write again soon + also
hoping you can read ~~this~~ hand-
writing. It's about like Dad's
isn't it?

All my love
Edna

"Sissy"
The
Grove

P.S. Thanks for the nice
letter to write again.