



ARMY AIR FORCE ADVANCED FLYING SCHOOL
DOUGLAS, ARIZONA

Monday
April 26, 1943

Dear Bob,

Your letter came to day and it was good to hear from you again. The letter was forwarded to me from Chico - I left there and came here the week of April 12th. At Chico I was taking my basic flying training in a Vultee BT-13 which has a Pratt & Whitney 450 horsepower radial engine. While there we did a good deal of diversified flying, that is - acrobatics, instrument flying (they put a black hood over our head so we can't see out of the cockpit and we must fly entirely by the instruments), formation flying, night flying, and cross country trips both day and night. I had a little over 80 log hours there. When we finished there we were ~~not~~ permitted to ask for the type of plane we wanted to fly such as single engine pursuit, twin engine pursuit, medium bombardment etc. I asked for heavy bombardment in a B-17 or B-24 and so I was sent here for advanced school in multi engine. At this school I'm flying two different planes - the AT-17 and the AT-9. Both are two engine ships. When we finish at this school we get our wings and commission and most of us will go to tactical outfits in the kind of planes we are assigned to, to train for 2 to 4 months more and then go to combat. I expect to graduate about the 22nd of June and that will sure

be a happy day.

Today we have been really feeling good. Three clothing concerns from nearby towns are here and we are placing our orders and getting measured for officers uniforms. We are allowed \$250 for clothes from the government but it sure goes in a hurry - just shirts cost as much as \$9.00 a piece.

I had hoped to be able to get a leave to go home for a few days after graduation but have been told no soap. My girl and I had planned to get married if I could get home and I guess a lot of wonderful plans had been made by must all be rather off now. I got a letter from Stella today, and she is going to come out here for graduation and we will be married then.

This post is right on the edge of Mexico and all the country around here is desert. It sure is plenty hot and very dry. I've been over in Mexico once but there is not much to see other than poverty and dirt. It is just as you see it on picture post cards.

You asked what baseball team I was for this year. Well, I guess I'm pulling for the St. Louis Cardinals as they are connected to the Rochester Red Wings. I haven't had much time to read about them this year as I'm so busy with school, flying etc. I hope you won the ball game you spoke about. I always liked to play 2nd base too.

So long for now. - Give my regards to the rest of your family

George