



UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES
PYOTE, TEXAS

Thursday

July 8, 1943

19th Bombardment Group
30th Bombardment Sqdn.

Dear Norman family,

The gift shirt which you sent me arrived today O.K. after being forwarded from Douglas. Thank you very much - it is just right - size and all. It was especially welcomed now as it was on my list of some clothes I needed to buy out of my next pay check. Now that I'm an officer I have to buy my own clothes which is no small item.

I suppose you have heard or will hear from mother and dad about their trip and our wedding. It certainly was grand to see them and to with them for a few days - I was fortunate and able to see quite a bit of them during their too short stay. After graduation I had a 10 day delay before I had to report to this post and so we went (He & I) to Los Angeles for 5 days and had a grand time. The folks were with us for one day in L.A. + Hollywood and then left. I sure hated to say good buy to them.

This post is next to a little one horse old western town and believe me this country out here is desolate. Helen is with me but is living in the town of Monahans - about 18 miles from here. So far I've been able to be with her about every other day. She has a room on the edge of town in a very nice new house and the people are grand.

I'm flying as co pilot on a B-17 Flying Fortress (~~which is~~ ^{plane} all airplanes). They way it works out - we start flying as co pilot and be here a month and go to a 2nd phase school some where else another month and then come back and start ~~over~~ ^{again} as first pilot. I hope that is the way it will work out for me. I'm in a regular combat crew now (we have our gunner, bombardier, radio man, engineers etc.) and fly gunnery + bombing missions at all hours which is why I only see Helen every other day. I get up at 2 A.M. tomorrow morning for a night flight of 4 hours. We also get plenty of ground school in tactics etc. I'm really not much different than a cadet except for my clothes + pay.

I really think I'd like these B-17s and perhaps I'll see you in a few months if I'm sent to the European theater. Do B-17s stop at Mitchell Fld. on their way over?

I hope this note finds you all in good health and thanks you again for the gift.

George