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11th Bomb Sqdn. A.P.O. #430  
% Postmaster - N.Y.C., N.Y.

Somewhere in China  
August 13, 1943

Dear Cliff,

Your most welcome letter of June sixth has finally caught up with me. I didn't know you were in the Army until your letter came. It certainly was a surprise & I can well agree with you on how much we miss the folks at home. I know that I do & you being married with a family, you would notice it more than I do. When this war is over I will have to make a visit to all my new relatives that have been born.

How old is your baby now? Does it look like you are Shirley? - I don't even know whether it's a boy or girl.

You say you have finished four weeks of basic training. I certainly do know what it is like, for I was through it myself. It isn't exactly "boys play" is it? Many a night I could hardly crawl into bed, my muscles were so sore from exercise & the nice long hikes we had.

Here is a synopsis of my army career.

I was inducted (drafted) at Salt Lake City, Utah after taking all the army classification tests I was assigned to the Air Corps. I was shipped from Salt Lake to Ft. Belvoir, Florida I had my basic training there. Then Ft. Worth Texas to Aerial Bomber School. I made Buck Sergeant I received my silver wings upon graduating from Bomber School. I was then assigned to 309th Bomb Group at Columbia South Carolina. I flew around two hundred hours as Aerial Bomber there I was given the opportunity to attend Radio operators school. upon graduation from radio school I made Staff Sergeant I was then assigned to a bomber crew as "Radio operator mechanic Bomber". There were six on my crew. pilot, co-pilot, bombardier-navigator, engineer, radio operator, I upper turret gunner. we trained together as a crew for three months I was then ready for over-seas combat duty.

Our crew I several other crews flew all the way over in formation - here in China. It was an exciting experience crossing the ocean I coming better than half way around the world. It's quite a experience to see nothing but water under you for eight or nine hours I know your gas supply is getting low. we had good luck all

the way over. Run into several bad storms which gave us a little worry.

I have been on five bomber raids to Jap bases. you really get serious when anti-aircraft starts bursting around the plane - makes you appreciate the training we've had to compete with them. I don't feel exactly scared on the bombing run over the target but it isn't too good of a feeling, also, you never know when you're going to be jumped by Jap fighter planes.

China is just like you would imagine it to be. Lots of Chinese & they raise a lot of rice. They are harvesting the rice here now. All the work is done by hand. It's slow but they hardly waste any rice.

We have pretty good barracks, considering, a Chinese room boy cleans & mops our barracks, makes our bed, gets our drinking water & other odd jobs we want done. We have an average of four to a room & it's quite comfortable. The Chinese treat us very good here. All the food we have is Chinese food & it gets very tire some. Rice three times a day, as well as tea & coffee. We have no milk which I miss greatly. The Japs are out of cigarettes quite often but that doesn't bother me as I don't smoke.

I sure hope this war doesn't last too long. I get damn lonesome but little things like that cannot be helped.

I was home once since being in the service. It was last February - only had ten days & between traveling I was only able to stay home two days. It will probably be a long time before I see home again. I pray every night & I know the Lord will answer our prayers. I find more comfort in prayer than I ever dreamed of.

Letters are the only real news we have here. Two shows a week & church services once a week. When the weather is good for flying we are kept busy.

As I know all about the "gold-bricking" & "bitching" you will find it where ever you go in the Army.

I've gained weight in the Army - I weighed one hundred & seventy-five pounds when leaving the good old A. S. A. I have lost some weight since. We were in India for awhile & it was so hot I lost about ten pounds.

Write soon, hope you are O.K. I get a chance for O.T.S. - a rating helps. I make \$172<sup>50</sup> now, flying pay, over sea pay, regular pay. as given Golden

U.S. 3983

11th Bomb Sq. A.P.O. #430

Postmaster N.Y.C., N.Y.

Free



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