

The address is:  
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Long Beach, Calif.

3-27-45

Dear Folks,

Again I'm writing while trying to get a long distance call through. For fear you won't get much out of the call since all the lines sound like I have a poor connection even when I'm calling the operator I'll start at leaning Sioux Falls and bring you up to date.

We didn't fly out here as you gathered from my card that I wrote from El Paso. We came by day-coach all the way and it was one hell of a trip. We were crowded four to a seat so I slept on that is, spent the nights, three of them, on the floor in the kitchen car. The whole shipment was officers so we had to do our own K.P. etc. and I must admit moral didn't run too high. So far as I know, no one died on the trip and only four got sick enough to be taken off ~~the car~~ of my coach and put in hospitals en route. Yours truly made it just fine.

(OVER)

No one from my crew came with me but I am running around with a kid by the name of Jim Vaden. He went all the way through training with Johnny and I knew him in Tucson. ~~He~~ I ran into him again in Sioux Falls. He has an aunt, very well to do and incidentally, that lives in Los Angeles. We spent Sat. night and Sunday <sup>with</sup> her and her husband and had one swell time. It was just like a week end party in the movies except that they didn't have a private swimming pool. I sure hope I don't wear my welcome out there any time soon.

From the looks of things I won't have a chance to as we are going to be busy around here. There is absolutely nothing for us to do except wait for our discharges but the ~~C. O.~~ C. O. of this field says that we are still getting army pay and that we are going to be kept busy 10 hours a day even if we aren't doing anything but going to worthless ground school, now that the war is over, and taking P. T. I spent all of to-day processing and have two more days of that to look forward to then my P. T. and ground school starts. It would

take a minical to ~~the~~ get me out of the  
army in time to go to school this fall so  
for a while I was thinking about staying  
in the army untill mid term ~~or~~ or even till  
next fall. I could get into A.T.C., build  
up my flying time, and make a nice little  
wad of money. I don't know what I'm  
going to do when I get out, untill school  
starts, and there are ather good reasons  
why I should stay in for a while, but  
every time I get to seriously thinking  
about it something like that train ride,  
or standing in line all day processing, and  
getting nothing done, or being told to  
go to school all day whether there is anything  
worthwhile to teach me or not comes  
up. Then I decide again to get out at the  
earliest opportunity. I may change my  
mind again but right now I would  
get ~~it~~ out, if I could, if there weren't any  
such thing as school, and I were going  
to starve to death within a week after  
getting out.

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Right here is where I got my call in.  
I know I'm not going to stay in the army  
now.

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I believe I've told you every thing I  
know now so I'll quit, and ~~go~~ go to

bed. Got a hard day of standing in line a head of me again to-morrow.

Ruth, the telephone conversation was awfully short and I didn't get to ask you about Dub. Write me and tell me all you know especially if he is coming home soon. He may come through here instead of L. A.

Cecil, that hotel in Long Beach is the Hilton Hotel instead of the Hilton House. I don't know what part of this will come in handy toward locating me but here is all the dope.

Every one in town calls their field the Ferry Command Base and they locate it by saying it is out by Douglas.

I am in Squadron D, my B. O. 2. number is 376, room 2, bed 2. I will make it a point to not be busy Sat. night or Sunday if I can help it. Unless your wire tells me differently I'll keep checking by phone with the Hilton Hotel and if I can I will get a room there.

Everybody has a good time in Ft. Worth.

Lane,  
Joe  
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