

Dec. 16th. 1943

Dear George,

I'm still on the train on my way to Santa Ana, California. I think we're scheduled to arrive here Saturday night. Riding in a Pullman though is pretty comfortable, and I'd just as leave the trip lasted a month.

There hasn't been much secrecy to admit, and the trip so far has been quite slow. We're going through Louisiana now, and it sure looks like a swell day to be home in New York, but then every day is a swell day to be in New York.

As you can see, by my scribbling, the train is quite ~~bumpy~~ bouncy, so please make allowances

I mailed a card off to you last night, and I'm hoping I get the opportunity to mail some more cards and letters today.

This whole train of 250-300 men, is a shipment of Bombardiers. Most of us were caught unawares and shipped out with very little notice. I managed to phone Mom, and Fran, and I told them I would go to either Texas or California.

Frankly I thought it was to be Texas; I had hoped it would be. Actually, what's the difference whether I'm 2000 miles away or 3000 miles away I won't get a furlough for another 5 months at least, and traveling is bad from either place.

I sure felt badly about pulling out so quickly. I had visions of a 3 day pass from Nashville, and

I guess I'd have tried to make New York, even for only a 24 hour stay. In any event, I hadn't expected it to happen so fast.

I still feel so uncertain about all this. Stalling off combat as a bombardier will most likely not be easy, and bombardiers, or anyone in a plane for that matter, in combat are a dime a dozen. But, the Air Corps is sending a lot of men across these days. I've an idea there's a real big push peccolating somewhere. The men who washed out, 21 out of the original 80 I came to Nashville with, who had previous Air Corps training, were told that they were heading for replacement outfits. Were I to wash out, I would be sent to some sort of school, and possibly to a

basic training camp as an instructor.

Nevertheless, I think I'm going to make
Bombardier, and then take my chances.

It's a gamble either way, and I'd
just as soon gamble with hans on
my shoulders and \$3.25 a month in my
pocket.

I still can't figure out what
kind of an outfit you're in, but I
hope it isn't too rough, and I hope
that you're doing well. Keep your eyes
open, and watch for angles to play
around with. With what you know, I
feel you should definitely get some sort
of good setup. Keep plugging away!
I'll keep you posted as to where I
am, and what's playing. I went to
town last Saturday, and met a P.F.C.
who was my first scout back in Co. I.
He says our Americans are really tough,
and no previous kind we had could
match it. I guess I'm still better off.
Many of them are all ready overseas.

Thence: Last letter said all was fine and dandy
On line - Prof

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Als R. Stoff Sq. C-1
N.A.A.C. Nashville, Tenn.

Put. George Stoff

~~Co. N & S 8th Bn. (COMP.)~~

ASF. UTC. NOSA

New Orleans ~~LA~~, La.



~~Free~~

~~RMS~~

