

4th Student Spcln. Bk 323
H. A. F. F. G. S.



U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
FLEXIBLE GUNNERY SCHOOL

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

Buckingham, H. A. F.
Fort Myers, Fla.
July 18, 1943

Dear Betty, Doug, & Alan:

I guess I am a bit late with this letter, but there is a lot to do when you change posts.

I am here at gunnery school. It is a must for every crew member of a bomber and bombers are the only planes that carry a Navigator.

This is a six weeks course. In it we learn all about the flexible machine guns and power turrets. we shoot everything from a BB gun to a .50 Cal. machine gun. we even get to shoot sket with a shot gun. we have to learn all the parts of the .50 cal. so well that we can take it apart, fix it, and put it together blind folded.

The Colonel told us yesterday, that when we finish here, we will go back to Navigation school. when we finish there we get a Commission then go to Bombardier school as student officers. It looks as if I am going to spend my army career going to school. That is the schedule now, but the army doesn't know 4 days ahead what they are going to do, let alone 4 months.

we had quite a train rick to get here. It took 40 hours. I saw the Mississippi

River just at sunset. That was the first time that I saw it in the day time. I was rather disappointed. The Delaware is wider than the miss. at the place where I saw it. It was at Vicksburg, Miss.

we went through Pensacola. I wished that I could have seen the Navy School but I didn't. I did see some PBY's on the bay. They are nice ships.

Last night, I saw the most beautiful sunset that I ever saw. That was about the only good thing that Florida has.

I had my picture taken last night. I will send you one as soon as I get them. They should be finished in about a week. you should have one soon.

How is everything at the tower? Do you see many planes? we have all kinds here. They come and go all of the time. Today a couple of P-51's buzzed the field. They really are a fast plane. also today, three Massey TBF's buzzed the field. They are a Tarpedo Bomber built by Grumman. P-39's - P-47's, B-17's, B-34's, A-29's are always around here.

How are Mr. Hamlen and Mr. Gannett? Give them my regards. are the engineers still at the Univ? what kind of a course do they get? I guess it felt pretty good to be home again, doesn't it? How did Alan like "Joisey"?

The bottom of the page is getting close and I have no more news for now. Sets of Love,
Frank.