

A/C R.G. Boyce
Flight E Class 43-J
10th A.A.F.F.T.D.
Blythe, Calif.

AVIATION CADET

5-2-43

Dear Miss McGlynn,

I was very happy to receive the last copy of "Salem News". Once the fellows get into the Service, they are moved around the country so often that it is hard to follow them. We certainly appreciate having a paper like yours to keep us informed of latest developments.

So far there haven't been many S.T.C. [Salem Teachers College] men sent out of the country. In fact, the only one I can think of now is Larry Newell. He hasn't written to me from Alaska yet, but the address he gave me just before leaving the States is:

Pvt. L.J. Newell 31136323
2nd Btn. Gen. Del.
Staging Area, Lt. Lawton
Washington

I've written to him twice at this address and haven't received any reply so perhaps it's incorrect.

Bill Dalton certainly deserves a chance at Officers' Training. If he gets it, I'm sure he'll make a good officer and one who has the confidence and respect of his men. O.C.S. [Officer Candidate School] could use a man like Bill instead of the "90- day dopes" they usually turn out.

[Page 2]

It wasn't so long ago, Miss McGlynn, that Larry, Bill, Tom Reddy, Charlie Crockwell, and I were back in your Freshman History class. Do I wish I were back there now, even for a week. Among other things, I could use some of the forty winks I caught now and then in your class. Each time we're transferred to

a new base we're given more work to do. And each time we think it's impossible to work harder but somehow we do it. Out here, though, we have five days of school, drill, calisthenics, and flying with Saturday and Sunday to recuperate. When the army gives you a two-day week-end to rest up in, you can be pretty certain that it's needed.

Flying isn't quite as exciting as I pictured it, but it's a lot of work and a good deal of fun. In the Army Air Corps, the Cadets always have something to be concerned and more or less worried about. Now that we're flying, our pet hate is "check rides." There are so many things to do right while flying that one little mistake in a "check ride" might mean elimination. I was fortunate enough to pass the six-hour check but ten percent of us have been weeded out already. None of us think we'll ever get by all the hurdles between here and graduation but we're all trying our hardest and hoping we'll be among the lucky few.

I've had close to seven hours of flying time now and learned the basic maneuvers of flying. Starting tomorrow, all we'll be pract[icing]

[Page 3]

Practicing are [sic] landings and take-offs. Once I've learned these very necessary procedures, I'll be ready to Solo, which I hope to do by the end of the week. Can you imagine me flying an army air-plane all by my lonesome? I'll be darned if I can.

Well, another college year is nearly finished and, though it's a little early, I wish you a very pleasant vacation.

Sincerely,
Ralph G. Boyce