

April 14, 1943

UNITED STATES AIR FORCES

Hello again!!

Reading our daily (???) newsletter from Salem - and let me tell you it sure is great to get it - and so often too - sort of keeps you in touch with what is going on both back there and with some of the gang who are in the service.

Thought you all might like to hear a little about what goes on when the upperclassmen put us in a brace and then proceed to put us through our paces and oh how they love to pacer it on.

The upperclassmen move out first (on the double) for every formation. We line up on either side of the "run-way" - (the walk- called a run-way appropriately enough because no one walks on it) - and then the upperclassmen come walking down between the units - I'll try to give a rapid fire description of what happens when about six upperclassmen hit you at once - three on either side!!

Three of them on your right - three on your left side and all hollering in your ear at once - (I quote)

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"Pop too, Mr!!" - and you assume a rigid stance of attention and I mean rigid- woe be unto the poor devil who moves a muscle! "Rack 'em back, Mr! And back come those shoulders - so hard you can feel your bones groaning.

"Are you drawing flying pay, Mr? Mr. Sir - "Well draw in those Wings - reach for the ground! And in close to your side comes your arms and down, down you reach till you feel your forearm almost leaving the rest of your body!

"What's your third General Order, Mr? Sir, my third General Order is - (before you can finish- someone else pops off) - "What's the definition of military discipline, Mr?" "Sir, the definition ---" "Mr, May I touch you? - will ask someone else - "Yes, sir!!", you answer and he reaches for your butt - "Suck in that belly, Mr! And in goes in your stomach! And How old are you, Mr? And the

answer”- twenty-two sir! - “Let me see twenty-two wrinkles in that chin”!- and he does or else!

When you think they are about finished and you know you are - they are just starting “second off, Mr! - and you second - sir! air wrew student, Capone, John D. 11081791, sir,! And so it goes with never a dull moment-

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When you stop and think that we go through this about five times a day - I wonder why I didn't join the infantry - but you all would be surprised as to how much good it does all of us - if you want to see some chests that really pop out at you - take a look at any air cadet -

In the mess hall - or cafeteria that we have here - more processing goes on every corner we take is square - we sit four inches from the table and four inches from the back of the chair - at a rigid position of attention- our eyes are fixed on one single point and are never moved - strict silence in the order. One hand is kept on our lap - the other we use to eat with - and never are both hands on the table at the same time. If we ask for anything- “Is anyone using the sugar? Does anyone wish to use the sugar? If the answer to both questions is no! - we sound off “Please - pass the sugar!! When we have finished, we have to ask the permission of an upperclassmen to leave the table - if he allows you to leave - all is well - if not you

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just sit!

That gives you a little idea of what goes on here we are always on the go- but we manage to have a good time doing it all- we know that its for our own good- for before you can give orders you have to learn to take orders.

Well enough from Birmingham Southern - we have just learned that Wendell Wilkie is to speak here at commencement exercises - I'm hoping to be in Salem - while Mr. Wilkies is at Southern - so I'm hoping that I will not have a chance to hear him speak.

I hope you will enjoy reading of our “processing.” - because I want someone to enjoy it - I know it's not very much fun to us -

Hoping to continue to receive those Salem news-letter

A Jr. Hg. Sr.  
John Capone