

Dear Sam and Cecil – Transcription - 1943-01-29

Date of Communication	1/29/1943
Station Address	A/C Ostrove, H. L.A.M.A. Avon Park Fla.
Addressee	Mr & Mrs Samuel Ostrove 250 East 176 th St. Bronx N.Y.

Types of Correspondence		Notes
Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Postcard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Telegram	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Transcriber	Steven Ostrove	Date	12/28/2022
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- Don't worry about formatting
- Transcribe words as they are spelled or abbreviated. Resist the temptation to correct what you see in the document.
- Do not transcribe text that has been crossed out.
- Do not Transcribe hyphens or spaces in words that occur at line breaks.
- Indicate if you can't decipher a word. If you are unsure of a word or phrase, please use [illegible], or your best guess followed by a question mark within brackets [Chattanooga?] or even [town?] or [name?].

Comments: Envelope has 6 cent Air Mail stamp

Letterhead has embossed insignia and the words LODWICK AVIATION MILITARY ACADEMY AVON PARK, FLORIDA



The letter appears to be written in pencil

1/29/43

Hi Gang;

Well! I knew it was to [sic] good to last. Yesterday I went up on a check ride and I messed it up beautifully. I tightend [sic] up, it was bumpy as all hell, I almost got lost [illegible] the clouds, and besides I had one of the toughest check riders on the whole field. I pulled out of a three turn spin and as soon as I came in with my throttle to recover, he yanked back on it and called forced landing. I was up at about 2,000 ft. so I picked a field and started to glide down. I started to come in for a landing and at 150 ft he came in on the throttle and told me that I couldn't have made it. He admitted that I could have landed, but he claimed that I would have taken a wing. Well; what the hell is a forced landing? I would have saved myself and most of the ship. I guess I will have to wait untill [sic] the day after tomorrow to find out why I am being washed. I guess that is the day that I will meet the board. i still have one more check coming up today, but the weather is pretty bad and I don't think we will be able to fly. This last check is more of a formality [sic] than anything else. Nobody has ever beat this check rider. He just lets you take off and land. He had one of the fellows up yesterday. The fellow made a beautifull [sic] takeoff climbed up to 3,000 ft and the check rider said to him, "Take her back, Your program is behind anyway". The next fellow was Smitty, one of my roommates [sic] at Maxwell. He is in one of the pictures. He is one of the best fliers in the bunch. In fact one of the officers addmitted [sic] that. Well! he didn't even get over 500 ft when the grim reaper told him to her back. out of the five of us in the room at maxwell, three of us washed out this week. I am the last. Its just the breaks you get. One student from every instructor has to take a check ride before solo and I had to be the one. illeg

What gets me so mad, is that I went through classification Pre-flight and half of primary before I get washed. It wouldn't have been so bad before I started flying. But now I know that I can fly and this has to happen. Why is it that the R.C.A.F. don't wash anyone out unless they get airsick. I think that their pilots are just as good as ours. There were only 27 men washed out of our upperclass [sic]. Only three washed out before they soloed, and they washed out because they didn't like flying after they started. So far 33 have washed out of my class, and about thirty more are on the borderline. We are expecting an investigation down here. They had the same thing happen at Areodia. The class after the investigation only washed out 3%.

I guess you have had about enough of my gripping.

How is everything at home? Tell Arthur that I am going to try to get a furlough within the next couple of months.

By the way, I didn't know that Al was that sick. He wrote me that he had a slight touch of the gripp [sic]. How did he get sick? What is it all about?

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That's about all now. I have a little work to do. I will try to call either you or Pop some time this week. When will you be at home.

Write soon

Love

Harry

P.S. I am sending you a picture of "Washout Harry" It's not to [sic] good, [maybe?] people will think it is a flier –

Harry