



LODWICK AVIATION MILITARY ACADEMY
AVON PARK, FLORIDA

1/29/43

Hi Lang,

Well! I knew it was to good to last. Yesterday I went up on a check ride and I messed it up beautifully. I lightened up, it was lumpy as all hell, I got almost got lost up in 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 for a 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~~ and at 100 ft he came in w 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 until 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 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 beautiful takeoff, climbed up to 3,000 ft and the check rider said to him "Take her back, I am going to be behind anyway". The next fellow was Smithy, one of my roommates at Maxwell. He is w one of the pickers. He is one of the best fliers in the bunch. In fact one of the officers admitted that. Well! he didn't even get over 500 ft when the grim reaper told him to take his back. Out of the five of us in the room at Maxwell, three of us washed and this week, I am the last, its just the luck, you get. One student from my instruction has to take a check ride before solo, and I had to be the one.



WESTERN ARMY, MONTANA
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What gets me so mad, is that I went through Classification Pre-flight and half of primary before I got washed. I 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 awfully good as ours. There were only 27 men washed out of our upper class. Only three washed out before they cooled, 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 in the hardware. We are expecting an investigation down here. They had the same thing happen at Arcadia. The class after the investigation only washed out 3%.

I guess you have had about enough of my griping.

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 grip. How did he get over it? What is it all about?

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

Write soon

P. S.

Harry

P.S. I am sending you a picture of "Western Harry"

It's not too good. Make people will think it is a fluke

Harry