

Robert L. Stone to Jacob Stone and Beatrice Stone

Ellington Field, Texas, 22 May 1943.

Typed letter signed, 2 pages + envelope.

[Draft Created by Crowdsourcing]

Saturday Night the 22nd.

Dear Dad and Bee:

Excuse the long absence without mail, but for the last week or so I've been busy as heck with tests and one thing or another. Life goes on as usual with classes following on day after day.

This week I completed two of my courses with flying colors. I got a 93 on the Aerial Photography and Maps and Charts final for a final average of 95. I also surprised myself on the math final by getting a perfect paper on vectors for a final average of 95 in math also. Vectors has to do with plotting flight courses allowing for the wind drift and the other atmospheric phenomenon that enter into flying.

From now till the rest of the time I'm here, I'll be concentrating on the physics which is coming along lots better now. That course is longer than all the rest and lasts for the entire time we're at pre-flight. This week we started a course on Aircraft Identification and one on Naval Identification. In Aircraft we have to learn to recognize all the U.S. Army planes as well as most of the enemy ships. On the whole a most important course for when we actually get into the fray. In Naval Forces they teach us a little background of the navy as well as the recognition features on our major ships, so that we won't be out some time and bomb our own navy as the Italians did.

I was certainly envious when I heard that Don was home for a few days. I'd surely give alot just to get home for even a day. I haven't heard from him this week and so I imagine he's probably moved on by now. I do hope he gets a decent field so it isn't too tough for him. It was certainly a shame he couldn't have gotten into something he really would have liked a little more!

Thanks both of you for being such good correspondents. All your letters are really appreciated even though I don't get a chance to answer them as often as I'd like to. Your trip to Deerfield sounded fun, Bee, as did yours to Atlantic City Dad.

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This week the field was visited by Pat O'Brien and several other movie stars. You see he is in a new movie that just opened called "Bombardier". He and the leading lady were out here on Thursday and they rode by in an open jeep waving to all the cadets who were lining the streets in their honor. All in all it was a pretty sour affair to stand around and gape at a broken-down actor, but orders are orders. None the less we're all looking forward to seeing the picture because it's supposed to be quite good.

Didn't leave the post last week-end as I had to stay put to study for my two exams this week but needless to say it was more than worth it. I almost died when I got back a 100 on the vector exam. If the weather is good tomorrow I plan to go to Galveston tomorrow to get some more sun. It's far from an exciting place but it's such fun and relaxation to get away from army life for a few hours.

Can't think of anything more now so I'll stop here
Lots of love,

Bobby

[*envelope*]

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