

Tuesday evening, the 27th

Dear Emmett:

Mom at the USO again tonight. Hope she has enough gas to get home on. The tank was pretty low. We usually buy gas at Graham & Ross' up on 8th Ave. N. and 6th St. for 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per gallon and it is 23¢ other places. We received two letters from you yesterday. Mother has already answered the pertinent items therein. Hope they have given you a chance to catch up on your sleep. I asked about chaplains in one of my letters and the next day we got your letter telling of the raid over Nagoya and that you had been to Communion that morning which answered my query. We surely are glad you have a priest handy. And we noticed that you were not among the "broachers" and song birds. Guess its a relaxation to forget the dangers you face sometimes. We like to think that you have already learned the value of temperance, in all things, and that you can "take it or leave it alone". Guess, too, you realize that the safety of the crew is up to you on the trips to and from the target in the way of navigation. (Sound like preaching?) Well we are going to try and get some papers and clip the stories of your raids from them for future reference and keepsakes. Your subscription to the Tribune should cover them--and you may get a whole raft of them at one time. Don Hoffman said one lad got about 14 in a heap. Have no idea how long they take to get there. Hope your first box has arrive by this time. Sent another Saturday. Will get some more stuff together and get another on its way soon. They stamp the letters asking for stuff-- and I had the stamp the one asking for calcium. Will use each letter for a box. The papers don't say a great deal about the raids. Just about what you hear on the radio. Tell the number of planes and mention the damage done. Is it harder to get on you at lower level with AA guns or is it the surprise feature that keeps the losses so low. I think there were only four planes lost on four raids in the paper reports. Did I tell you your letter about Tokio ~~raid~~ raid the 9th was in the Iniwa? Had a three column head on page one and set in boldface type. Fred Hanneman was kidding Mrs. Wendell about it and asked if it was a paid story. He said there were lots of fellows flying out there. And she said "Oh, yes, but ther is only ONE Emmett Epley." Heh! I notice that your last letter, the 17th, was postmarked the 19th and we got it the 26th. Seven days after it was postmarked. Don't know where the delay was between your date of 17th and the postmark. Anyway it is the fastest way to send mail. By the time you get this letter, or a fwe days later, you will be having a new cousin in the family. Pescabibble will be I doing. Maybe she will grow up and settle down then. Was sort of tough to be leaving home and going so far away. Just like your mother did. The news from Europe is mighty encouraging these days--hope they can finish up that job and get out there to finish one you are on. Down to the weather now--spring is here--rain, snow, sun, wind, warm, cold, Just like spring weather here. That's all tonight, Emmett. Love from all of us.

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