



ARMY AIR FORCES

8 Nov. 44

1920

Dear Dad,

Just a report on my activities so you can keep up with me.

We finally got an airplane yesterday that was able to fly normally and I got in 7:15, starting at 1815 and landing at 0130 this morning. It seems that either these planes develop all their trouble in the first hour or fly until their fuel is exhausted, which is plenty long. We flew a radar navigation mission of 1000 miles for $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours and spent the rest of the time upon return practicing instrument or "blind" flying and landings. The mission was from here to Amarillo, then Wichita, Kansas City, up to Omaha and return. My results were good.

I've decided that I dislike landings and takeoffs most in any airplane. Once you get up you can always bail out if anything happens (be sure and remind Mom that the higher the better)

but on takeoffs especially an engine failure could be disastrous. And in a B-29 I sweat out takeoffs even more than in any other plane I've ever flown in. The cowl flaps (hinged shutters around the cowls to ~~close~~ control cooling) are especially critical due to the almost perfect streamlining of the nacelles and if they're too far open the whole ship shimmies around, somewhat reminiscent of the way Morris' corset stays used to when you snapped them. You can imagine - bucking, pitching, and shaking at 250 miles an hour only 200 or 300 feet off the ground until the pilot gets things adjusted.

I had ground school all today and finished up with an hour of P.T., so I'm a bit weary tonight. However, I plan on retiring soon.

Got a feather in my cap today when the squadron's planes were inspected by Group to check on instrument calibration. The one I worked on was the only one that passed everything.

I know the household is pleased with the election returns. We got

come over the plane radio last night and this morning's paper clearly established a Democratic victory. I was especially pleased with the large vote which proves who wanted who. And the congressional races came out better than expected as well as some gubernatorial campaigns. All in all very cheering - even to the repudiation of Nye & Ham Fish.

It has been colder than the devil here today and yesterday night we ran into snow at 14,000 feet, so I am looking for some here on the ground soon. It will mean only cold to me, though, and a correspondingly harder time pulling the props on the planes. ~~though~~ Perhaps even the Phillipines will be welcome - and I think that is our destination.

Must close now. and hit the sack.

Love,

Ernest U.

P.S. - In case you're wondering, these planes can carry more than 7 hrs. gas - lots more.