March 2, 1944

Bryant Service Club
Bryant College

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your letter of Dec 8th. It has been chasing me over a good portion of new Russia I guess thus the delay. As yet your small package has not arrived. I suspect that it too is having difficulty finding me.

At present I'm at an advanced air Base helping to establish facilities for our speed when it moves up.

The Japs at one point are within four miles of here. They're pocketed up in the mountains. By American & Russian units. Our own dive bombers have been coming over every day pounding gun positions and personnel. It's been a thrilling spectacle to watch. Japs won't last much longer here and soon life will settle down to the dull routine that marks a squadron's operation for the ground
personell at any rate.

Our group thus far has established an amazing record against Tojo. It holds the win-loss record for any group in the air corps. To date they've knocked down 177 Japs and the I can't state losses as it is extremely small. During the December landing at Cape Gloucester our group knocked down 53 Japs to the loss of none—a world's record. Col. Real nearby our former group E.P. holds the record for enemy planes shot down in the SWP area. This plane carries 28 Japs flags. He is the Chap who awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for shooting down six Japs in one mission. The reason for this marked superiority over Tojo is at times hard to believe. It can only be explained by superior tactics and a great plane. The P-47 is a hard plane to knock down as many a dead Jap pilot could.
testify if he were still alive.

I hope I haven't bragged too much about my outfit but I am proud to be a part of the organization. Everyone, from the tops down, is doing a swell job under difficult conditions. We live primatively and are constantly on the move. We hope to be relieved soon this being our tenth month of combat operation. We look for a couple of months in Australia to catch up on our long neglected social life. Then back home or maybe to China. So much for now. Thanks for writing and I shall confirm receipt of your xmas gift when it arrives. Regards to my old friends at Bryant and to my classmates I'd wherever they may be.

Sincerely,

Warren V. Hughey