



U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES  
MAXWELL FIELD, ALA.

Tuesday  
2000

Dear Mom,

I went to the Range today and fired the .45. Boy that's some gun. It's terrific to shoot, you really know you've got something in your hand when it lets go. Plenty of kick. The thing weighs about four lbs., and when you fire it, that four pounds really pushes back. My score was a 70, which is qualifying. You need 65 to qualify. Tomorrow I fire for record to be entered on my Service Record, today was just familiarization.



with the piece and  
it's range procedure.  
It holds eight rounds  
fully loaded, and is  
completely automatic.

It is the most powerful  
pistol in the army, throwing  
a slug nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch  
in diameter at 1700 feet  
per second. It can tear  
the whole back out of  
a man as it leaves  
the body. It's  
very difficult to shoot  
because of its weight  
and kick.

I took my physics  
~~final Friday~~ mid-term  
Tuesday. I got 95  
because I put down 2000000  
instead of 20000 for  
one answer. um





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Today I took my  
Maps and charts final.  
I think I got 100.

I'm talking Chemical  
Warfare now, it's a  
very interesting subject.  
Boy these new ~~gases~~  
we have now are really  
something. Mustard.  
Nitrogen for instance, can  
kill in fifteen minutes.  
Adamsite, which explodes  
in the air and removes  
all the oxygen, kills in  
10-20 seconds, if deeply  
breathed. You'd be surprised  
how much we have used  
gas in this war, also.  
Not directly against the enemy



but indirectly. For instance when we captured a small island in the Pacific that was of great use to the Japs but of no value to us, we sprayed it with tons of mustard gas, thus stopping the Japs from reoccupying it, and freeing us from the task of keeping much needed men and supplies there to defend it. Pretty smart, eh honey?

For the past three nights we ~~had~~ <sup>have</sup> had down outs. I don't believe I've told you about them.

You see, the whole cadet corps is now on the honor system, symbolized by the



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code which we have to learn which is: "an aviation cadet will not cheat, lie, or steal, or allow any other cadet to ~~also~~ remain in the corps who is guilty of the same." When someone violates the sacred code, he is "drummed out." We are awakened in the middle of the night, and have to don class "A's" ties white gloves, the works, and fall out in squadron formation, while over the speaker system a drum beats a constantly increasing tempo.



when this stops,  
the group adjutant  
reads off the violation  
and the cadet's name.  
all commands are given  
in a whisper. ~~and~~ It

is very impressive,  
after the drum at the guilty  
man has an hour to  
get off the cadet area,  
and his name is never  
mentioned again in the  
corps of cadet cadets.  
Honor is everything  
here, without it, a cadet  
will never survive in the corps.

Well honey, I've got  
some work to do. I  
love you with all my heart,  
give my love to Bob, and  
that cute little son of hers,  
how he's cute. I love you,  
angel.

Bob's devoted son  
*[Signature]*

(FREE)



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