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104th A.A.F.T.O.
Coleman, Texas



Free

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Hamlin,
Texas

flying
description



ARMY AIR FORCES
COLEMAN FIELD, TEXAS

~~██████████~~ January 20, 1943

Dear Folks

Well I guess I am doing o.k.

So far -

I have been up in the air twice now and am crazy about flying. Several of the boys in my group has gotten sick but so far I haven't even felt bad at all and my instructor tried several things to see if I would. The first morning we went up the instructor demonstrated power on stalls, power off stalls, banks, and turns, so this morning he told me to take over the controls - me with 35 minutes of instruction on an airplane.



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so I grab the stick and start experimenting with it. I made a few banks and turns then I went into a power on stall and pull it out fairly good except I went into a partial stall on recovering. The next one I made was ok. A stall is where the airplane is pulled up in a position too steep for the engine to pull and the controls are mushy and it begins to quiver all over and begins to fall. Then you have to be careful to keep it from spinning then slam the stick forward and dive straight for the ground with throttle wide open and gently ease up on the stick until the nose is on the horizon.



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My instructor showed me a spin also this morning so I would know how to come out of one if I ever get in one. It is very simple but so many people loose their head and get so excited they don't coordinate or cross their controls then they are in trouble. This plane we fly here will recover from anything if you know how and my instructor believes in teaching me how. He is a slow easy going guy. not like the other instructors. They continually bawl their students out. mine doesn't say a word. he just tells me to try it again -

It is really a thrill to fly - soon I will go over Valera. so far every day we fly over to Santa Anna (over)

and fly around those hills
right in back of the town - Remember?

Logan Smith taught me General
Science in High school, remember?
He is a navigation instructor
here. He remembered me -

Got to go -
Love
Robert