

Sept. 22, 1943

Dear Anne

Thanks a lot for the birthday cards. They really were swell. Your card said that you would write but I thought I would beat you to the draw.

Anyway, I just couldn't wait to tell you that I have soloed. I made my first solo last Monday and I was up again yesterday and today. Of course, I didn't do a very good job of it but I was doing it alone and I must admit that I felt a little proud of myself. The fact that I have soloed doesn't mean that I am a cinch to get through Primary but it is one of the necessary steps.

4

Well, the town of Coleman, Texas, is a total loss. There is absolutely nothing to do but go to the movies and they aren't very good. The Cadets have to make all their own entertainment. There is a Catholic church though. The Cadets and Officers from the post make up about half the population and the Cadets make up the choir.

We are going to give the upper class a banquet this Friday night, a dance on Saturday night, and we march in their graduation parade on Sunday. The flying officers and instructors are going to put on an air show Sunday so we will have some fun one week-end anyway. Our lieutenant is going to import 50 WAFS from Sweetwater, Tex., for the dance so maybe I'll be able to get in a few dances. 50 girls, or

III

women (18 to 35), won't go far with about 200
guys but competition is the spice of life,
they say. Quite a few of the fellows have
their wives here and there are a few girls
of age in town. Dobbs, Diltmeir, and I
were in town last Saturday and three
girls aged about 12 to 14 tried to pick
us up.

I finally had some prints made of
the pictures taken in San Antonio so
I am enclosing them. The photography
isn't so hot but the weather was
plenty hot. I am also enclosing one taken
in Syracuse. The boy with me is Bil
Dobbs, my best buddy. He, Fred La
Fountaine, Herman Smith, and I used
to pal around together. We lost
La Fountaine and Smith when we shipped
here but we managed to stick together.

Well, it's coming payday again soon
so I might as well send you what I

have on hand. I'll have to hold back a
little from now on so I'll have some
money with which to buy Christmas presents.
They sent me an identification bracelet
for my birthday.

That's all I have for this time, Anne.
Tell all the gang I send my best regards
and I'm waiting for those pictures that
you are going to send me.

Ed