

July 20 1942

Dear mother & Father - awfully sorry  
to have gone so long without writing you. But  
have been quite busy. Major Hunter, my assis-  
tant took an outfit bound overseas to New York  
as medical officer to part of embarkation - will  
be gone about ten days.

You have kept saying in your letters to "stay  
on the ground" and I have tried to do so - But you  
know I did so want to set the course in aviation  
medicine because of the intensive training in ophth-  
almology, heart and neuro-psychiatry. I can  
set up as an <sup>eye</sup> nose and throat specialist  
in a suitable location after the war if I get  
that course. Luckily there is a major (native  
Texan) here, a G. P. like I am (age 45) who  
wants the same course for the same purpose  
and who wields some influence with the  
air powers in this corps area. Friday after-  
noon we went to the colonel and got a U.O.C.O.  
(verbal order commanding officer) allowing us to go to  
Randolph Field to see about getting in the air  
corps for that course. The colonel in command  
there said we could probably get in the  
Sept 19 class. The August 4 class was full.  
He told us how to make application thru our  
own colonel. We came home the next day  
but I didn't report at camp at once because  
I had liberty with the colonel's permission  
and another officer had taken my night  
duty for that night and I was tired -  
I was afraid he would want me to  
take night duty if he knew I was back.  
Sunday morning when I went out to

camp the first word that met me was,  
"I hear you're leaving - sure hate to  
see you go - I called the adjutant  
and he said, 'we had orders Sat-  
~~morning~~ <sup>15</sup> leave in 24  
hours for camp Claiborne to join  
a unit bound overseas but we  
couldn't reach you in time and  
this morning an order came revoking  
those orders. So consider yourself  
"as you were". The air corps comm-  
ander said as long as you are CAC (corps  
area service command) you stand a good  
chance of getting it. But it is  
impossible to get it if you are in a military  
command which is what I was bound for.  
Now it is likely that I will stay in this  
country for at least 4 1/2 - 5 months,  
maybe longer - I will be in this Corps  
area sure all that time which is  
why we have decided to assemble our  
family (excepting you, I'm sorry to say).

As of today we rented a three bed-  
room spacious house in a lovely  
neighborhood close to camp to accomodate  
all the girls - fine big yard to play in  
and fine neighbor children, doctors  
daughters - Even if I am more to  
some other camp in this corps area

3

Margaret and the girls will stay here until  
I can find a new suitable dwelling.

we can never tell you how much  
we appreciate your keeping our girls all  
this time. And we hope it won't be too  
hard a loss to take them from you for a  
while. we sent Ruth a night letter  
tonight asking if she would bring them  
down and stay awhile with us. I do  
want to see them and I do want them  
all with us for awhile. until I go

over seas in fact if I can. yes, Mother,  
I feel sure I will get a few days to  
run up and see you all before  
I am shipped. Keep your chin  
up and understand it could not be other-  
wise. Life is life & we try to do our duty  
as we see it. In spite of anyone or  
anything I had to bring all this heart-  
ache and pain on the ones I love  
the best. It could not be otherwise.  
I know you understand and that  
helps immeasurably. But really,  
I'll be back with you some day and  
we'll sure have a lot to talk about.

By the time you get this we'll know  
whether Ruth will bring the girls down  
or whether Margaret will have to come  
up and get them, bringing Anne as  
so much excess expensive baggage.  
I investigated and learned that the  
government pays for the solo

Transportation at 4¢ per mile per  
head, better than \$200.<sup>00</sup>

Maggie says she wants two  
pictures of each group we selected  
of me - I.E. three for Bobby -  
you - and three for Maggie -

Maggie says she wants you to  
buy Redbook for August and read

"a Little Faith" - It is very  
proper she says - except that

Maggie isn't pregnant -

Congratulate Bob Watson for  
Mr. Will you Dad? Be sure  
Ruth lets us know when to meet  
her in Dallas or Fr with so  
there will be no chance of mistake  
if she comes. If she doesn't you'll  
see Maggie in a day or two -

Love to you both -  
Your son J.E.

He said this after reservations had been made -  
He was transferred Thursday - and didn't receive  
Ruth's Monday telegram saying she would  
bring the girls until Friday - He had to  
leave and knew he could not get telegrams  
to us or us to him in time - too uncertain  
and that is the reason he called me -

It was so good to hear his voice - I  
miss him so and you your father & I  
will be lonely and heartsick but I  
shall never know -

With love  
Mother -

George wants you to go see Cousin Kate Funk -  
She is with her son Paul Funk. They are  
very lovely people - Even your great-grandfather  
adored her and you will find her about  
the nicest person living - Her daughter  
is a very highly educated woman - Her  
daughters and are good friends. Were at camp  
together - Do this for me right away and  
let me know. Love Mother -