

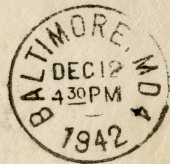
Post. James J. Ley

Class 14 - Flight 4

AAFT + CD

Middle River, Maryland

Dist. 264



Three

BUY	_____
WAR SAVINGS	_____
BONDS AND STAMPS	_____

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Ley
Labota
Iowa

Thursday Night

Dearest Mom and Dad,

Well, here I am, way out in Maryland. We shipped on Mon. aft., and rode a train until 1:00 P.M. today. The train was slow at first, but we hooked onto a real fast passenger at Cincinnati. The cars were Pullman, and we ate out of our mess kits (no diner). The trip was really quite enjoyable. We came thus - through Arkansas over to Memphis - Memphis to Louisville - Louisville to Cincinnati - Columbus - Pittsburgh - Harrisburg - and then Baltimore.

Our camp is just 12 miles from Baltimore. It is a small camp, and is really swell! There are about 600 boys here; not even as many as we had in one squadron at Sheppard. The barracks, or dormitories as they call them, hold about 32 men (one floor). Everything's new and clean and pleasing. Ah, yes, the camp is located in a woods (very pretty) only about four blocks from ^{the} Glenn L. Martin bomber plant. Martin makes the famous B-26 (medium)

founder, and I think that is the ship to which we will be assigned.

Now, more about the camp. The food is fine. Girls do all the dishing out, and the plates and spoons are not greasy. A fine middle aged lady is the hostess at the mess hall, and comes around asking if you want more of anything. Yes, I think this food would compare to the average home cooking - no fooling.

The stoves in the barracks are coal burners, and are fired all day long by civilian fire-men. The barracks is cleaned every day by colored people, who place clean towels and one clean sheet on your bed (every day). This reminds me of a Hotel.

As I understand it now, we start to school tomorrow. Our shift is to be from 2:00 until 4:00 P.M. (rumor). We are to have just 23 days of school, with Sundays off.

Baltimore is just 50 miles from Washington D.C., and about 150 miles from New York. I certainly plan to visit both places before I leave, if possible. By the way, isn't May

Powers over at D.C.? If so, will you let me know her address?

Gosh, this camp is certainly a relief after having been at Sheppard. Quite a Christmas present, I'd say.

Well, dearest folks, I guess I'd better close for tonight. I imagine they'll get us out early in the morning to get things straightened around.

Love,
Jimmy

P.S. I certainly wound up a long way from Los Angeles, didn't I?

The Martin plant and parking lot is camouflaged with netting and paint to a tee. We are not supposed to tell a thing we see or hear around the plant - sworn to secrecy.

The army did not pay us this month, as we were supposed to have shipped before the 1st. As a result, Jim's about broke. I could sure use about \$20., Pop.