

JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 1943

EVENT

TUNISIA: NUMEROUS ATTACKS BY VARIOUS ALLIED AIR FORCE COMMAND OCCUR. 12<sup>TH</sup> BOMBER COMMAND B-25s ATTACK RAIL INSTALLATIONS AND WAREHOUSES AT EL AOUINET. SEVEN ESCORT P-38s DOWN 8 BF -109s

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB 3.

"MY DARLING MOTHER,

HOWDY MOM SUSIE...

WELL I AM A LITTLE MORE ACQUAINTED WITH MY CREW NOW AND I THINK WE WILL GET ALONG IN FINE SHAPE. MY ENLISTED MEN, THE GUNNER AND RADIO OPERATOR ARE PRETTY GREEN, BUT I GUESS THAT THEY'LL LEARN QUICKLY ENOUGH, OR ELSE!

MY CO-PILOT IS A REAL COUNTRY BOY FROM TRINITY TEXAS. HE'S A DOGGONE FINE FELLOW, BUT RATHER EMBARRASSES (SP?) ME BY TRYING TO CALL ME "SIR". OF COURSE, HE IS TWO RANKS BELOW ME (A 3<sup>RD</sup> LIEUTENANT) AND THAT IS VERY PROPER, BUT IT MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE ODD. I'LL HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF THAT HABIT, I GUESS. OF COURSE, OUR ENLISTED MEN ALWAYS "SIR" US, AND THAT IS STRICTLY KOSHER, BUT COMING FROM A FELLOW OFFICER SOUNDS FUNNY TO ME (BECAUSE I AM ONLY A FIRST LOOEY)

I REALLY GOT SOME NEWS WHEN I CAME DOWN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. IT SEEMS THAT I AM SCHEDULED TO GO TO ALGERIA, WITH QUITE A FEW OTHER CREWS TO JOIN UP WITH DOOLITTLE'S BUNCH. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DEAL IS YET, WHETHER WE ARE GOING TO LEAVE THIS GROUP OR NOT. WE MAY HELP THEM OUT, THEN COME BACK TO OUR OWN OUTFIT, THEN AGAIN WE MAY LEAVE THIS GROUP FOR GOOD AND STAY WITH THEM FOR AWHILE. IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ROUGH AND TOUGH, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MY DEAR, JUST KEEP THOSE PRAYERS GOING UP TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. I AM CERTAIN THAT HE WILL BRING ME BACK IF IT'S HIS WILL.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY NEW A.P.O. NUMBER WILL BE, BUT KEEP ON WRITING TO MY OLD ADDRESS UNTIL I TELL YOU DIFFERENTLY. THIS MOVE MAY MEAN THAT WILL GET TO COME HOME SOONER, THEN WE WILL REALLY BE THE FORTUNATE ONES INSTEAD OF PITIED AS WE NOW ARE. ANOTHER GOOD THING IS THAT WE WILL BE THAT MUCH NEARER TO HOME THAN WE HAVE EVER BEEN BEFORE. THE ONLY BAD THING (ASIDE FROM THE ROUGHNESS) IS THE FACT THAT OUR INCOMING MAIL WILL BE JUST THAT MUCH SLOWER IN GETTING TO US. IT HAS BEEN SLOW AS HECK NOW, BUT I HATE TO THINK WHAT IT WILL BE. OF COURSE, MY MAIL TO YOU AND SHORTY WILL STILL COME THOUGH, SO I CAN AT LEAST LET YOU KNOW I AM O.K.

IN CASE SOME OF OUR (MY) FRIENDS WONDER WHY I AM NOT ANSWERING THEIR MAIL, PLEASE EXPLAIN THE WHOLE SITUATION TO THEM. TELL THEM THAT I WON'T BE GETTING THEIR MAIL FOR A LONG TIME, AND I AM NOT NEGLECTING THEM ALTOGETHER.

SO FAR, I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY MORE OF MY CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, EXCEPT THE CANDIED WALNUTS FROM YOU AND THAT CARTON OF LUCKIES FROM HAZEL. THERE IS A FOUL RUMOR THAT A BOAT FILLED WITH 14,000 SACKS OF PACKAGES FOR THE MIDDLE EAST WAS SUNK SOME TIME AGO. I WON'T GIVE UP HOPE THOUGH FOR ANOTHER MONTH OR TWO. IF YOU HAD MY PRESENT WRAPPED IN XMAS PAPER, THEN IT WAS PROBABLY ON THAT BOAT AND ALSO PROBABLY IN THE DRINK SOMEWHERE.

WELL IT LOOKS LIKE I AM GOING TO MISS OUT ON THAT WEEK'S LEAVE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE COMING UP IN ABOUT TEN MORE DAYS. I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SEND ANOTHER \$100 HOME TO SHORTY, BECAUSE IF I HEAD FOR THE WILDS, THERE'LL BE NO PLACE TO SPEND ALL THAT GOLD.

I HAD BETTER CLOSE FOR NOW, BECAUSE I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE DEAL IS. I HEARD THAT I AM SCHEDULED TO HEAD OUT TOMORROW, AND IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO FIND OUT WHETHER IT'S TRUE.

GOODBYE FOR NOW....."