

CHAPTER EIGHT

EIGHTH AIR FORCE

HORSHAM SAINT FAITH

ENGLAND

Sept. 4, 1944

Dear Mom and Dad,

We have some rain today so cannot fly. Not that we don't fly in bad weather, but this is a little to rough. I think it has rained pert near every day since I got in England. I almost think it is winter time in Redwood Valley. I don't think I will be able to see any of our relations as I am stationed quite some distance away. This place is not bad but it still is not the states. We expect to get a pass soon. We will go to London as we all want to see what the place looks like. Most of the towns are very old, narrow street, and very dark. You should try to find your way in the black out. It like being in a cave with a hundred different passages

Love Arlin

(V-MAIL)

Sept. 15, 1944

Mrs A.W. Hargreaves
437 N. Dora st.
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
APO-16399-DH-18
c/o Post Master, N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

This is just a note to let you know I am in England. I don't have much time as I have to meet a formation. We came over by boat. Hit some rough weather but didn't get sick. If I get a chance too I will try to find some of our relatives.

Say hello to the rest of the folks for me and I will write more later.

It is time to go. Write often

Love and kisses
Arlin

(V-MAIL)

Sept. 18, 1944

Mrs A.W. Hargreaves
437 N. Dora st.
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

We have been on the move again. I am not in England at the present time but expect to return. We will go to school before we return. My mail hasn't caught up with me yet but I should get some soon. I was out on pass the other night. I like the country but the towns are so old with nothing to do. If a house is 100 years old it is a new house. Talk about rain. I have seen enough to last a life time. Believe it or not I saw the sun about a week ago.

Love and kisses
Arlin

(V-MAIL - ORIGINAL, NOT REDUCED)

Sept. 22, 1944

Mrs A.W. Hargreaves
437 N. Dora st.
Ukiah, Calif.

A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
APO 558
c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

Here is my address
2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o Post Master N.Y. N.Y.

This will be my permanent address while I am in England. I got a letter from you dated Sept. 1st. Also one from Dad the same date. Dad wrote that Harry Williamson would like to sell the rifle again so please buy it for me and I will send some extra money as I have a little saved. This is a good group I am with. They have a very fine record with few planes shot down. The camp is one of the best in England so you can see I will be O.K.

They keep us on the run with flying, ground school and sleep if you can find time.

Love and kisses
Arln

(V-MAIL - ORIGINAL, NOT REDUCED)¹

Sept. 30, 1944

Mrs A.W. Hargreaves
437 N. Dora st.
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received one more letter dated Sept. 7. I am glad to hear that you sent for our things. Have you heard from your Mother? I hope she will be able to come down. It will make me feel better. I am not on a combat ship at the present time. The bombardier and myself went to see a play in town last night. It was about an R.A.F. base. I enjoyed it a lot. I still have quite a bit of ground school. I have reached the point where I don't want to see any more school for some time. They keep us on the move with out much time for sleep but I guess it is good for us.

Love and kisses
Arlin

¹See picture of original of this letter on page IV in the introduction to this book.

(V-MAIL)

Oct. 3, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received your V-Mail letter yesterday. I sent \$200.00 which you should receive soon. If you can get Harrys gun for me as I would like to have it when I get back. You should have received \$150.00 at the bank for the Month of Sept. They keep us in the air a good part of the time but this is one of the best camps in England so I don't mind it so much. Kiss Norma for Daddy and tell her to be a bad girl. Please write as often as you can as I look forward to mail call.

Love & Kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Oct. 8, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street, Apt. 6
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received your V-Mail letter today. It was written on Sept. 24, 1944, but sent to my old address.

I only have a few minutes before I have to go fly². They keep us with plenty to do. There is one thing I need and that is sleep which I intend to get tonight. That is if they don't think of something else for me to do.

I got a card and letter from Mrs. Gullickson today. Also had a letter from some girl in N.Y. written to a A/C D.W. Hargreaves ellington Field, Texas. it was a good letter so sent it back to her.

Love & kisses
Arlin

² 384 B-24's attacked the Koblenz marshalling yards.

(V-MAIL)

Oct. 12, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I will write a few lines before I go to bed. I have not received a letter for a few days. The last one I got was still written to my old address. When will your Mother come down. Be sure and send her some money to pay her expenses. What did the Doc have to say. I have some missions in but still have plenty to go. Any time I send a clipping home please keep it for me. I will try to write an air mail letter in the next day or two.

Love & kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Oct. 13, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

This is my birthday and believe it or not we have a day off. Yes we still have the same crew. I room with Jack O'Reagan the co-pilot. You should see our room, lots of pin up girls without to much on. Jim and Paul have the room next to ours. We lost one of the enlisted men as we fly with nine men in place of ten over here. He will fill in on some other crew.

Did the bank receive the \$150.00 for Sept? Also did you get the \$200.00 I sent you from here.

Oct 14, 1944

I had to go fly³ so didn't get to finish this letter. I also had to fly today so this is in the evening and I am ready to hit the hay.

How is Norma and give her a big kiss for Daddy.

If you can find a pair of slippers I wish you would send me a pair. All clothes are on the ration list over here.

The mail is on the ball now and I get your letters in about three weeks.

Love & kisses
Arlin

³ Oct 14th 318 B-24's attacked Kaiserlautern, Cologne, Gremberg, and Euskirchen. Aircraft lost included one B-24 from the 458th.

(AIR MAIL)

Oct. 18, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I just finished eight V-mails and will try to write an air mail before I hit the hay. All my mail came at once so I had quite a job. I wrote a V-mail to your mother.

How is the money at the bank? If it hasn't come in yet go to the bank and get some any way.

Yes it is OK by me for Norma to have music lessons and tap dancing. I want her to have anything that will bring out her talent.

I was only in New York a few days. In fact I never even got off the post. That is one city I wanted to see but it will have to wait until I get back. I can't tell you anything about our trip over or where I have been.

I am glad to here you are doing so well. I admit I was worried about it for awhile.

We are to fly again in the morning⁴ so will have to go to bed soon.

I met one of the boys I went through Ellington with in London. We looked the city over to see the damage done and the historic places. We saw a good stage show in the evening. We had a swell room in the hotel. it is the first place I have been able to get real good food. I had some kind of wild game each meal. Deer, quail, pheasant. It was quite a surprise to find such things in the center of London.

The reason I only write on one side is that in case this letter would be censored they would not cut up the meaning on the back side.

⁴No missions shown for the 458th on Oct. 18 or 19th.

I don't know what I will do for Christmas presents this year. I can't buy things in the stores with out ration stamps and there are not even any Christmas cards in our P.X. It will be up to you to take care of the present end.

Last month I sent for a course in Criminology from the Un. of Wisconsin. I should receive it soon. It only cost me \$28.00 and I will get the material to cover a full college course. It will only be a short time until I will have more time to myself. In fact we have started to get more time already. it will give me some thing to study when we don't fly. I would like to take a year of college when I get back but with this course and a little night school I believe I can get the same thing, that is if I can ever get out of the Army.

Winter has already started over here. It makes the weather bad for flying but we still can get off most days.

Jack tells me it is time to go to bed and get the damn light out so I better close.

Tell Norma Daddy still loves her right along with her Mom.

Love &
kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Oct. 25, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

Will wonders never cease? We didn't fly today. I have been on the bed most of the time with an English book written about 1900 and not to good. I am still on the bed with this letter on a magazine that is to thin for a table.

I received three letters yesterday but none today. I think most of my mail has reached me. That is the old letters written to my first APO.

We had to move the other day, but got a better room out of it. Jack has a room by himself while Jim and Paul room with me in a large room. It has a wash bowl with hot & cold water, also a fireplace which has a nice fire in it at the present time. We each have a closet and some shelf space to put our things. There are three lights in the room so we can read or study O.K. Some one before us painted a nude on the wall so we have some thing to look at.

We have our own ship now. It is a good one much better than those we flew in the states. It is in the shop at the present time as we picked up a few holes the other day.

About that \$200.00, put it in the bank when you get it as I will have plenty to get by on.

Norma must be a big girl to be able to dress herself.

Thanks a lot for having Aunty see about the gun. I sure hope Harry still has it. When this is over it will be some time before there will be new guns on the market and I will need one as soon as I get home. You can figure on a trip to the hills for about a month if I have anything to say about it. Where would you like to go? There is some nice country near Mt. Shasta or we may find a good spot close to home.

Jim has been writing a letter to Bonna. He has a chair in front of the fire place with a board on his lap for a table. Did I say he was writing a letter? He just threw the whole works on the bed

and is now reading a book.

Five more days til payday. This is the first time I have been low. One thing when there is no money I have to stay in and be a good boy. I will try to send some more money out of my next check. if there is not enough I will save it and send some next month.

I got a letter yesterday from Eunice. She said Geo. was to leave for Pearl Harbor. Did he go? Also that Eunice would come home for Thanksgiving, how I wish I could be there. Not only to eat the dinner which I know would be good but also to see my wife and baby girl. That is a mistake Norma is no longer a baby girl but Dadys girl. How about it Norma.

This is a long letter for me to write and as I don't want to spoil you I will close

Love & kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Oct. 25, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

Now sit down and don't faint. Yes this is two letters in one day. You see I will write if and when I get a day off. I still don't know why we stayed on the ground as most of the boys had a local flight to make.

Did your trunk ever come from Lakeview? You said the rest of the things got there OK, but never said if the trunk came later.

Do you know yet just when your Mother will come down? Remember to send her enough money for the trip. I will send as much home as I can so we will have a little when we get together again. I stopped the bond I was getting as it was to much trouble to make it up each time I got moved. I believe the ones I bought will be sent to Dad. There should be about four of them. They were all for \$25.00 each.

All our crew is at home (if you can call this home) tonight as no passes were given out today. Jim and Paul have a book while Jack and I are writing. Here is Pauls wifes address

Mrs. Paul M. Craven
Box 598
Helper
Utah

She is in school in Logan Utah but this address will reach her.

The conversation at the present time is what our wife did in the way of cooking when first married. I just told about how my nice fish got all pounded up⁵. Do you remember? Jacks wife had

⁵When they got married, Arlin told Ruth that all steaks should be pounded. When he brought home some salmon steaks.....you guessed it.

biscuit troubles. Jims wife has never had the opportunity to do much cooking as he got married after graduating.

It is time for me to hit the hay as I know we will never go two days in a row without flying. In fact I am in bed at the present time but Jack is still writing and Paul just started a letter. I expect the light will be on for at least an hr. more.

Since we have our own ship I now have to calibrate the instruments. That is to find how much error there is and make up a table for each one. This will include three compasses, two air speed meters, a drift meter, and an astro compass. In other words I will have any spare time taken care of for the next week or two. I am glad of the chance because I will then have instruments that I can depend on. When you fly in any ship that may be on the line you just hope and pray they are some where near right.

I haven't received my course from the Unv. of Wisconsin as yet but don't expect it for two or three weeks as it will have to come over by boat which is pretty slow. I hope the course is as good as they say it is as it should be quite a help in my work after the war.

Also it will give me something to do as it is hard to get anything to read over here.

I still have to go to school each week but it is all old stuff that I get tired of it.

It is late here and past bed time but you should just be getting supper. How I would like to come in and sit at that table (and spend the night before it would be to late).

The boys are ready to go to bed so I will close so you will be able to finish reading this.

Love & kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Oct. 18, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

Just got back from London. Believe it or not I had a venison steak. Boy did it taste good. They serve it in the hotel that we stayed at.

At last the mail came through. I got twenty five letters in the last three days. How is Norma (& Jr.)⁶. Here is a kiss from Daddy. I got your last V-mail in 12 days. Did you ever receive some flowers. I sent some before I came to this base. Had a good time in London. Saw a lot of places and some good shows.

Love & kisses
Arlin

⁶Arlin Anderson

(V-MAIL)

Oct. 19, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

It is past time to be in bed but will say a few words first.

I received a V-mail and an air mail from you today. It sure is good to receive so much mail but I had quite a time writing letters the last two nights.

I got something for Norma in London which I will send the first chance I get. How has my girl been? Good or bad? I bet I can tell you which.

Today was just another day here. We took a ship to another field for some work to be done but that was about all.

Why don't you use this space when you write a V-mail?

Love & kisses
Arlin

(V-MAIL)

Oct. 22, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I am too tired to write an air mail tonight. I received a letter from you and also one from Dad and Mom today.

I had a fine supper tonight. One of the boys got to go hunting and got some pheasants. I had all I could eat with peach pie, potatoes, gravy, string beans and salad. Not bad for this place.

Yes we can have photographs over here. They told us that we couldn't before we left is the reason I didn't bring them with me. Please send them. Also any new ones you may have.

Love and kisses
Arlin

(V-MAIL)

Oct. 28, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

Didn't receive a letter today or yesterday so should get one in the morning.

If you have the money I would like to have a fishing reel, line, and some hooks. I will write Dad and tell him the kind I would like to get.

I went fishing last night just before dark but no luck. The Sgt. who I went with got three nice ones. I can make a pole and plugs with the material I have here but the English don't even know what a casting reel is.

Love & kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Oct. 28, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I just wrote a V-mail but will at least get a start on an air mail before the lights go out.

I have more room here so will tell you more about the fishing. There are three places close to camp. it takes about a half hr. on a bicycle to get there. The Army furnishes Paul a bicycle so I am OK on that score. It is a river that has formed some small lakes. We fish in the lakes much as we would for Bass. The fish are a good size and fight well. in fact in the U.S. they are considered one of the best game fishes.

The English don't know what a casting outfit is. All they fish with is bait. They have a cane pole and a wooden reel. Sometimes the reel works and sometimes not. If it don't, goodbye fish and line. It costs us 1/2 crown (about fifty cents) for a boat.

You should see the quail and pheasants here. They are just as tame as chickens (almost). It is a good thing I don't have a shotgun or there would be a few less to look me in the eye.

You will find enclosed a five frank note that Paul got in France the other day. Please give it to Arlin Jr. for his coin collection.

It is time for the lights so good night. A big kiss for Momma and Norma.

Love & kisses
Arlin

P.S. This was made
by the German
Gov.

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 2, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received a V-mail today but I couldn't read the date. Also received three V-mails day before yesterday. They were for the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of Oct.

I just got back from flying⁷ and am very tired. I don't expect this letter to be very long as I will be asleep before long.

I got a bloody nose at high altitude today. I had quite a time between it and my oxygen mask. I went to the hospital tonight and got it fixed so it shouldn't bother again.

So far I haven't received any packages. The other boys have so expect I will before long.

I haven't had a chance to go fishing again. I got the material to make my rod so will start work on it the next day we sit on the ground. The way it has been for the last week I don't know when I will get it done. We very seldom fly a combat mission but we sure get to see England. I mean we fly over England but seldom see any of it because of the clouds.

I am glad to hear you liked the flowers. I was about to think that you would never receive them. Yes Jim and I both sent them the same time.

This is a short letter but I just can't keep my eyes open any longer.

Norma be good girl and here is a big kiss.

Love & kisses
Arlin

⁷ 144 B-24's attacked Gelsenkirchen / Buer.

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 12, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

This is Sunday afternoon and I just got back from town. We had a pass last night so Jim and I went to town to see a musical show. After the show we had a cup of coffee and stayed all night at the Red Cross. We got up this morning for breakfast had a hair cut and went to church. It seemed good to hear a preacher again. After the service we went back to the Red Cross for dinner. It was 3 P.M. when we got back to the base.

Paul just came in and has the good news that we fly tonight.⁸ I knew this pass was to good to last.

Jim got a box from his sisters today. Any time you have any extra food just send it along.

I will have to close now as it is time to get ready for tonight.

Love & Kisses
Arlin

P.S. Send me your
Ph number.

⁸No missions shown for the 458th on Nov 12 or Nov 13.

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 14, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received your V-mail that you wrote on the first of Nov. today. Also received a V-mail from Eunice and one from Fairrel.

How is my wife today? Mother wrote that you were gaining weight other than in the middle.

I mailed a package yesterday. I enclosed some coins for Arlin Jr. There are some English, two French & an Irish penny. Please see that he gets them. Please excuse the way they are done up but we can't get any paper over here. The one with your name on it I made in my spare time. I wish I could send you more but there is just nothing to buy in the stores that I would like to send unless it is rationed.

I intended to go fishing this afternoon but the rain will not stop. The rest of the crew are in ground school. I don't know how they got passed me today.

I received the air medal⁹ the other day. All our crew got it at the same time. I would send it home but it might get lost in the mail.

We have completed about one fourth of our missions. With the bad weather they have over here it will take some time to get the rest of them in.

Thanks a lot for getting the gun from Harry. Be sure and tell Dad that anytime he wants to use it to go right ahead. He might just as well use up the old ammunition as I will get some new when I get back.

At the present time I am in front of the fire place where it is nice and warm.

⁹ See a picture of one in the appendix, page 232.

It is time to put out my wash if I am to have any clean clothes this next week. I put them in water about an hour ago. It is hard to get soap to wash clothes with so some times they have a slight grey look. The Army is just keeping me in shape to wash diapers when I get home.

I will close and do my wash. After that I will try to write Dad and Mom.

Love and Kisses to
Mommy and Norma
Arlin

(V-MAIL)

Nov. 18,1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I have been at a different base for the past three days so couldn't write. The weather was bad at our base so could not return. When I returned I had three V-mails from you. You wrote them on Nov 3, 4, & 7th. Also had a card and letter from Mr. Jameson in Redwood Valley. How have my letters been coming through. I write two or three times a week? Why don't you use this part of a V-mail letter you could get more on. We got us a radio this evening so will be able to have some music.

Love & Kisses
Arlin

Nov. 18, 1944

Dear Mom & Dad,

Just returned from a three day visit to another field. The weather was bad so had to land at a different base. it was a R.A.F. field and they sure treated us nice.

We got a radio this evening so am listening to it while writing this letter. Have a fire in the fire place so it is quite comfortable.

The music just stopped and some guy is talking but cannot tell what he is saying. I think it is French. If we don't fly in the morning we expect to go to church. Jim went with me last Sunday so will go to the Catholic service with him.

Love Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 20, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I have a few minutes before supper so will write a short letter. No mail today and I mean no mail as it didn't come in for some reason.

The weather is still bad so didn't have to fly today. We had some ground school but the rest of the day we had off. I put out some wash and got some fuel for the fire-place.

I received a box from Uncle Bill. This stationery was part of it with candy and nuts. It sure has tasted good. I will write them a letter in the next day or two.

That was a first box I have received.

The radio is on with some hot music. I am having trouble to hear it and write at the same time. It just changed to some Mexican music. The U.S. has a station in England and it sure puts on good programming.

It is time to eat so will close and mail this on the way.

Norma be a good girl so Santa will remember you.

Love & kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 22, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

The other day I received a letter which said you had found your ring. Today I got your letter which said you had lost it. I am sure glad that you got it back. Also received the V-mail you wrote on Nov. 10th.

I just finished a V-mail to Dad & Mom. Will try to get a V-mail off to Eunice and Fairrel before the day is over.

We have the day off today as the weather is to bad to fly.

I received a letter from Tonopah today. They said my drawings had gone in to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics¹⁰. Who knows something may come out of it some day.

We have to complete 35 missions to end our tour. After that some of the boys get stuck as group navigator for some extra time. You can see by this it will be some time before I will be able to get back. I wish I could be with my Honey all the time but it is not to be.

No Honey the flowers were not for our first mission. Jim and I just got the idea so sent the flowers. I am glad you liked them.

It is time to go eat so will close this and mail it on the way.

I sent the \$200.00 through the Army to you not to the bank. You know the Army so the Lord only knows when you will get it.

Paul made First Lt. yesterday. Jack and I will have to wait until we get about twenty to twenty five missions.

Love & Kisses to Norma
Arlin

¹⁰The NACA conducted research on aircraft design including wind tunnel testing and air foil design. I can't imagine what type of drawings Dad would have sent them. I sure would like to find out.

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 26, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received your Christmas box but didn't wait until Christmas to open it. Thanks a lot for the games as we didn't have a thing. Jim and I have had some good chess games.

We were to fly tonight but old man weather said no. The weather over here is worse than the Germans. I never saw so much bad weather in my life and winter has just started.

I haven't received a letter since the last time I wrote. That is I haven't received one from my honey. I got one from Aunt Eilleen and one from Mrs. Gullickson. Also received a box from Aunt Eilleen and some stationery from the Waldahls.

I haven't received the fishing equipment as yet but don't expect to for two or three more weeks.

We have a good fire in the fire place and the radio on. It is nice and warm so I am just a little on the sleepy side. If I write some of this backwards you will know the reason why.

Did I tell you that Paul made 1st Lt? I believe I did in the last letter.

Jim received some cookies from home which we have been eating tonight.

Jim is playing solitaire at the present time. Paul is shaving. That is something I should get up and do. Jim just decided we should have some pop corn so he has the mess kit out and over the fire. I can hear the corn starting to pop and can almost taste it. Boy does it smell good. He is melting the butter and will have it ready in a minute. I will take time out to consume my share. It was good and will wait for the next batch. Jack was in own room but could smell it so was here on time.

We have a pass coming up on Dec. 5th. I don't know just what I will do as yet. If the weather

is not to bad I will do some fishing. if it is raining I may go to London again.

Time out for some more pop corn. It was just as good as the last. Some time when you are down town you might get some as our supply is getting low.

Love & Kisses to my two girls
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 28, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I have a few minutes before supper so will write a short letter. I received two air mails from you today one written on the 13th of Nov. the other on the 14th.

You said you had seen the show "White Cliffs of Dover". I haven't seen the show but I can tell you this that they are a sight to see on the way back. On a good day you can see them before you ever leave the other side. It feels good to see them pass under you.

You say Fritz will never forget me. I know that. Also Spotty will always have his usual welcome for me.

Just remember when we take a vacation after this is over Fritz will have to get one too.

Yes I got the five dollars you sent. I expect you received my letter telling you so before this time.

Don't worry about me or our crew all they have been able to do is punch a few holes in the ship. None of the crew has been hurt and we don't intend to.

No I haven't received the slippers yet but just give them time to get here.

Love & Kisses
Arlin

Nov 26, 1944

Dear Dad & Mom,

I received the Christmas box OK and thanks a lot. The rest of the boys also send thanks. It sure seemed good to set my teeth into the dried fruit. We don't get much candy over here so you can see it all was well taken care of.

We were to fly tonight but the weather is bad so get to stay in by the fire.

We had a swell Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. I still feel full and this is the third day.

Love Arlin

Nov. 28, 1944

Dear Dad & Mom,

This letter will have to be short as I have to run for the supper line in a few minutes. You know how I am when it comes to eats.

Ruth wrote and said that Dad was out to the ranch and had good luck. I bet that made Fritz mad or did he get to go. You know you should keep up his moral. He may lose his energy if he was to stay home to much. You can tell him to have patience as I will be home some time. He will know what that will mean. I can hear "Black Hill" calling regardless of the time of year.

It is time to go so take care of yourselves.

Love
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Nov. 30, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received one of your V-mails today. No I haven't received my correspondence course yet. it seems to take a long time to move things across.

I am enclosing a postal money order for \$75.00. Just put it in the bank and if I run short I can write a check. I don't think that I will need any of it. I want to have as much in the bank as I can when I get back.

I received a box from Aunty today with two cans of pop corn. I just wrote to you to soon.

The weather is good tonight just for a change. The stars are still behind some mist but the moon is shining through. If it stays like this we should be able to get off the ground in the morning. It has been so long that I have about forgot how to navigate.

It is time to eat so will close and mail this on the way.

Love & Kisses
Arlin

Nov. 30, 1944

Dear mom & Dad,

Received your two V-Mails today. You wrote them on Nov. 12 & 15th. Thanks for Geo. address. I will try to write him a line.

There is not a lot to write about as things are quiet because of the weather.

If we don't fly¹¹ this evening I think I will try out the fish again. So far I have only caught one. It was about five or six lb. They put up a good fight but not like a Steel Head. I will be glad when my tackle gets here so I will have an outfit of my own.

I expect some of my letters have reached you by this time. write whenever you find time as I enjoy hearing from you.

Love Arlin

¹¹ Rail targets attacked at Neunkirchen and Homburg by 291 B-24's.

(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 1, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I received two of your air mail letters to day. One was written on Nov. 6th and the other on Nov. 8th. The last had the letter from Mrs. Maxwell enclosed. Thanks for sending it as it had quite a bit of news.

You asked about the course I sent for. It hasn't arrived as yet but it should be getting here pretty soon. It will cover police work, how to question prisoners, and general facts about crime. It will also help in the immigration work when I get back. I would like to get enough college to make me qualified for FBI work but that is a long way off. In the mean time this course will give me something to work on so I will not be to stale when I get back to civilian life. It will be bad enough to have to relearn all the immigration law as I have forgotten most of it. Also there has been and will be a lot of new laws and regulations by the time I can get back to work. As for my spanish it is just about gone but if the time comes when I need it I can dig in again.

No I don't need a picture of your tummy. I think the ones I have are much more attractive.

I am glad to hear that you feel so good. Could it be that my absence keeps you in better shape.

The lights just went out so I will have to finish this by flash light. In fact it is Pauls flash light and he seems to think he should have it. I don't see why he should after all it is only his light. Some one just came in to see about the fuses. I expect they will come back on in a few minutes. I have my own light now so can finish this in peace.

We have a pass in a few days so should get some fishing in if the weather is at all good and I don't mean the sun has to be out as that would be such a shock that the fish never would bite.

The light are still off so I better close for this time as my flash is quite dim.

Love & Kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 6, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I have the place to my self tonight so will write a few letters. I just finished one to Eunice and Fairrell. They sent me some fishing plugs which I have received. I intend to try them out tomorrow.

I received a letter from the college which said my course had been shipped so should receive it before to long.

Thanks a lot for the fruit cake and nuts. We ate the nuts but are saving the fruit cake until Christmas time.

Did you ever receive the box I sent. I hope it arrived in good shape.

I went to the Catholic church with Jim last Sunday. We were sitting on folding benches. In the middle of the priests sermon the bench folded with a loud crack and put Jim and I on the floor. Oh boy was my face red. To top it off the bench came down on my foot which hurt and forgetting where I was I said a few words that were not quite the thing to go with the priest sermon. That was one time I was glad to get out of a place.

Afterwards I remembered what Norma said to the preacher which her mother didn't like and here was Daddy doing the same thing.

I will try to mail a box sometime next week. The box will be for Dad and the rest will be labeled.

Jim and I have collected quite a few tools since we came over here. In fact our room looks more like a work shop than anything else. We have files, hammers, vise, chisel, hack saw, wrenches, and a few other things. Most every evening we are working on something.

I hear it raining out side but I have a big fire in the fire place so it is nice and warm in here. I

am on my bed writing this so if I go to sleep don't be surprised.

I went in town last night to see a show. It was "Sweet Rose O'Grady." I had seen it once before but I enjoyed it again. I think you and I saw it in San Francisco or was it in Ukiah. I don't remember.

Love & Kisses

Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 7, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

What would you say to a nice long letter. Now don't be surprised if I stop before you think I should but I will try to make it long for me which is anything over one page.

I just finished a letter to Dad and Mom. it was three pages so I will try to do as well for my wife.

The only trouble is that I wrote them what little their is to write and I know you will read the letter.

This is the end of our two day pass. Jack and Jim both went to London. They bought some clothes but only stayed one night and were back to the base again. My money was to low to make the trip this month. I need some clothes but expect to get what I need from the PX when it comes to our station. That is if it isn't to long in that case I will go to London on my next pass.

If I should run to short of money I may have to write a check but don't expect to. How is the bank account? I don't want to write a check unless you have plenty to go on.

Some of the other boys are in our room as we have a fire-place. There is so much noise that it is hard to think let alone write. Of course the radio is on which helps out.

Today I have done the total of nothing. The Group Navigator saw me and wanted me to do some calibration work on a compass. it did me good to tell him I was on pass and to find someone else. it seems as if there is an extra compass to calibrate I get it. I don't know if they like my work or if I am just easy to find.

Here goes the fourth page but I don't know how I will fill it. It seems that the things I would like to write I can't and the rest is not very interesting.

The place has quieted down. Jack is reading no I mean Jim is reading and Jack is writing a

letter. Paul also is in the letter writing mood.

Our ship has a new picture. It is a pretty girl with a sword and belt.¹² Oh yes the rest is nude. We expect to get some pictures that we can bring back with us. We can't send them through the mail with out a lot of trouble. In fact it is so much to go through it wouldn't be worth it.

This makes three days without flying. Thats a long time for over here. I am at least building up flying hr. in case I should ever need them. The way I feel at the present I don't think I will be doing much flying after the war but you never can tell. I like Navigation but get tired of being in the air all the time. I don't mind the low altitude but that damn oxygen is something that you just can't get used to. That is I have reached the place were I hardly know I have it on but I still feel it when I come down. Two or three hr. at altitude is about the same as five or six close to the ground.

Since France has been taken over all our missions are into Germany itself which puts us on Oxygen for quite a few hr. Well that is enough for the oxygen even if we all do have to have it.

This letter has gone on past my expectations so I think I better close before I establish a record.

Love & Kisses

Arlin

Merry Christmas to Norma
& my Honey

¹² This description fits exactly the ship "*Jolly Rager*".



(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 12, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

All the other boys are writing letters so I guess I better do the same.

Received three boxes yesterday. One from Eunice, Mrs Watson sent one from Redwood Valley, and the other from Dad & Mom. in other words we eat again.

We got up at noon today and I mean noon. Jack came in at 12:05 and woke us up. They flew us about 14 hr. yesterday¹³ and I was so tired I just fell in bed. What made it bad was the weather. In lots of places the clouds were above, below and around us. It is some fun flying formation on instruments.

We didn't fly today so at least got a good rest.

I can hear the boys coming in from todays flight. They come in right over our house so we are sure to know when they get back.

I just woke up. It seems I went to sleep with this letter on my lap. Sleep is one thing I can do. I guess I don't have sense enough to let this place get me down. I am on my bed in front of the fire so you can see it was easy enough to drop off.

Love & kisses
Arlin

¹³ Dec 11, 1944 marked the largest force of bomber dispatches by the 8th Air Force. 464 B-24s, 1003 B-17s (total 1,467 bombers), and 777 fighters. Targets hit by the B-24s were Hanau Marshalling Yards, Karlsruhe, and Maximilian Bridge. No losses shown for the 458th.

(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 16, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

Once more I am on my bed which is the correct place to write a letter.

We cleaned house today. Made a double bunk out of Jims and my bed. I think the boys downstairs thought the house was coming down. We had to make our own U bolts and washers. We used the fire-place as a forge and hammered them out. It made a lot more room and should be easier to keep clean.

Their isn't much to write about so will try to describe our room. It is against regulations to draw pictures so here goes.

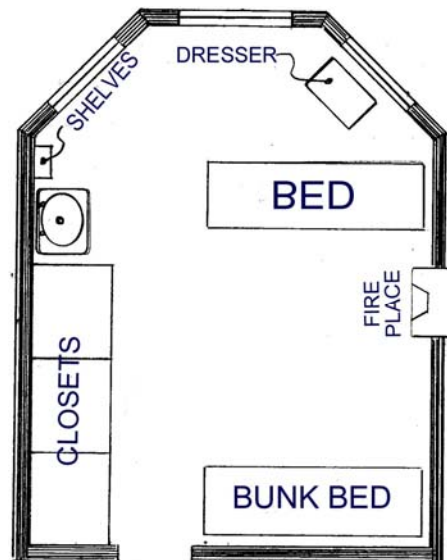
We enter the door from the West. On your left as you enter are three closets. These have a place for clothes and some shelves on top. They also have some drawers in the lower half. Just past the closets comes our wash bowl with a mirror and light above. to its right are two shelves for shaving kits etc. From the sink the wall angles inward with a window in the center. Because of this angle and one from the South wall the East wall is very short. There is just room for a window - with about a foot on each side. We then come to the South wall. As it angles away from the East window there is a chest of drawers. Just over the chest is located the third window. As the wall straightens out to run true East and West is placed Pauls bed with the foot to the wall. Next comes Jims and my bed with the fire place between. That is our beds are on one side and Pauls on the other. This puts the side of our beds against the West wall. We also have two lights besides the one over the sink. We have made the rounds. How did you like it?

We can tell that Christmas is drawing near. There is a large Christmas Tree in the mess hall. They used chaff for the tinsel. Now I expect you want to know what chaff is. It looks just like tinsel only it is made out of metal. We dump it out over Germany to screw up his radar controlled guns. They also made up some lights. There are things made out of tinfoil and the net result is real good. The rest of the room is decorated with fir greens. I wish I could be with my girls on Christmas but it does help to see things decorated.

I was in town the other day looking at some of the bombed out places. We don't know how well off we are not to have such places in the U.S. It must have been Hell when the Germans were coming over. Now it is hell over there.

Merry Christmas and I will be thinking of you and home.

Love and kisses
Arlin



(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 21, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

At last the slippers arrived and fit O.K. Thanks a lot for sending them. It seem so good to get out of those big shoes and into something light.

The reel and line haven't arrived nor my course. One of these days I should receive a lot of mail.

It is only four days until Christmas. I can't seem to make it real. Christmas means home to me and this is not it. I don't know just what we will do as that will depend on the weather.

Love & Kisses
Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 23, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

It is almost midnight and I am so sleepy I can hardly see this paper but I will try to write a short note.

My slippers came the other day and they fit just fine. The fishing reel etc came yesterday. Thanks ever so much for sending the things I asked for as I know I will get a lot of fun out of them.

I am duty Navigator tonight so will be up until dawn. I will have to go to work soon as there is quite a lot of work to do.

It has been almost two weeks since I have been off the ground. The weather has been very poor. One thing I have been getting plenty of rest and plenty to eat so I should get fat.

I received two V-mail today. One you wrote on Dec. 7 and the other on Dec. 9th. Also received two air mail from Dad and Mom yesterday.

No I haven't received my course as yet. I expect it most any day but it will just be my luck to have it side tracked. I wish it would get here as I have quite a bit of spare time. I have read all the books and papers in the house.

I expect to go to London on my next pass as I need some new clothes. I will get an over coat as it is cold enough most of the time for one to feel good. I also need a pair of pants as my pants and some barbed wire got in a mix up and the pants came out second best.

I haven't sent the box as yet but will try to do so after Christmas.

We expected to get a tree but no luck. The crew down stairs got a nice one and have it all decorated. They made up a set of lights so it looks real nice in the evening.

It is time to go to work so will have to sign off for this time.

Love & Kisses

Arlin

(AIR MAIL)

Dec. 28, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

My course in Criminology arrived at last. I spent all evening working on my first assignment and it is real interesting. I believe it will be well worth my time besides giving me something to do.

I haven't received a letter for the past week so should get quite a few when they do get here.

I sent seventy five dollars the first of the month in an air mail letter. Did you ever receive it. I won't be able to send any extra home this time as it will all have to go for some new clothes.

Paul and Jim both have their heads in a book. I just suggested going to sleep but they say the books are good so I guess I will continue the letter for a short time longer.

We finally flew today¹⁴. The sun came out for once but it was so low there wasn't much heat to it. In fact the frost from last night is still left over tonight.

It is just about midnight and I think I will go to sleep if the other boys stay up.

The days I fly when it comes bed time I am all for it.

Our last few missions have been what we call no balls. That is without flack or fighters. They don't come to many like that for me so I best knock on wood and keep my fingers crossed.

How is Daddys girl? Here is a big kiss from Daddy to Norma. Did you get it?

Love and Kisses
Arlin

¹⁴ Dec 28, 1944. B-24 targets were Humburg Marshalling Yards, Bullay Bridge, Kaiserslautern rail bridges, & marshalling yards, Neunkirchen Marshalling Yards, Zwibruken, and Bierbach. 284 B-24s involved with no losses shown for the 458th.

(V-MAIL)

Dec. 31, 1944

Mrs. A.W. Hargreaves
602 N. State Street
Ukiah, Calif.

2nd Lt. A.W. Hargreaves 02056587
752nd Sq. 458th Gr.
APO 558 c/o P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

Dear Honey,

I don't have time for an air mail as we have to test hop a ship. I received your air mail letter with the letter from Jordan enclosed. It is to bad about Ashby but this is war. I wrote a V-mail to Jordan today. Yes I received the five dollars Gov. check.

This is the last day of the year. I wonder what this next year will bring? I hope it will mean that we can be together again.

I expect to go to London in a few days but it is so hard to get a room that I don't know if I will or not.

Love & Kisses
Arlin