

Jan 3, 1944



BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE
TONOPAH, NEVADA

Dear Molly,

Guess what? Another change of address. From one extreme to another. McChord was in the Land of Trees; big trees, little trees, and plenty of trees. Down here there isn't a tree within miles. Just a desert, - sand and sagebrush.

Big Field tho 90 mi + 60 mi. Biggest in the world. There's a story around about a boy that went AWOL for 4 days, but they couldn't court-martial him because even though he walked steadily in one direction, he had never left the field.

We don't speak in terms of down
the corner, or a block away when
talking about the position of buildings
here; but say it this way - just
a $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. north or a $\frac{1}{2}$ mi that
way, and point out the direction.

I left McLeod by myself
so naturally I took my time
getting here. Spent 12 hrs. in Portland,
and 24 in Reno. Reno! Wow!
What a town. Take the heart of
New York and only the best of that,
set it out in the middle of the
desert & that is Reno. I had
more fun in 24 hrs than I've had
since my furlough last summer.

3

Molly, guess what I thought of
when I first hit this field. Do
you remember that animated cartoon
about the dog running & dying
on the desert and sudden coming
to life when he saw the woods
over the hills. He said "Trees! Trees!"
and all mine. Now I know how
he felt.

The field's elevation is over a
mile high so the air now is cold,
clear, thin, and seems healthy, but
I can bet it's an oven in the
summer.

Our equipment is just beginning
to get here and although today

is my first day here, I've really
put in a good day's work today.
Climbing around the town like
a monkey after bananas.

Some of the boys got here
last week, and a plane went down,
everyone bailed out O.K., so they
went up in the hills as a search
party. They got back today with
the men. All of them look like
a bunch of old desert rat prospectors.
Some of them got lost and the
other fellows had to look for
them. A good time we had by all,
they say.

5
Tonagah is the nearest town, and
that is small, nothing there but
gambling houses + saloons. The M.P.s
close the town up at 12 P.M. Push
all the G.I.s into trucks and send
them back to the field. Don't have
to worry about transportation anyhow.

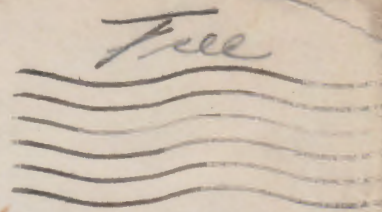
Well Mollye that's about all;
Pretty good cross-section of the field. But
I still think I'm going to like it
here. The food is damned good. I think
that's what really made the impression
on me.

So till later

P.S. Saw Inv. Schoenberg at McCloud
before I left. He was taking his Aviation
Cadet exams (over) Charlie [Edelberg]

P.P.S. Somebody just told me our
2. Post Chaplains went over the
hill last week. They were nervous
week from Punching out T. S. cards.

P.F. Charles Edelberg
413th A.B. Sqdn.
Tonopah A.A.F.
Tonopah, Nevada



Miss Molly Skat
c/o V.M.H.H.
6th + French St.
Wilmington,
Delaware