

Lieut. C. R. Simons
7th Bomb. Squadron
34th Bomb. Group
A. A. B. Blythe, Calif.



1943
AIR BASE
AIR MAIL
AIR BASE

Mr. + Mrs. L. A. Simons
P. O. Box 117
Pleasanton, Texas



ARMY AIR BASE

Wednesday
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Dear Thomas + Helen:

Well I finally got my commission and wings and then they stick me out in a desert where I can't even show off my new uniform and wings.

The only thing good about this post is that we are flying B17's. It is really a huge ship and it really a sport bombing from it. I really have not done much flying yet as all the pilots are not here yet. We should be assigned to regular combat crews by next week and then we fly every day.

I guess mother has told you all about her trip to Albuquerque. I really think she enjoyed herself. I took her to our graduation supper and dance. I really think she got a big kick out of the dance. Everyone was tight but she did not seem to mind.

She wrote me last week the Weegie had taken her first steps. Gosh, that does not seem possible.



ARMY AIR BASE

Woodrow Barnhill is out here and has already made first tour.

I really had a swell time in Salt Lake City. They could station me there for the duration and I would not kick. This Blythe is really a hole though. It is about the size of Bishop and right in the middle of a desert. The closest town is Los Angeles and it is two hundred miles away. We probably won't be here but about four more weeks and then we move to some second phase base. I should go across the last part of May or the first part of April. I sure hope I can get a leave before then.

It was really too bad about Muriel Steigler and John Ellis Griffith.

I must close this now and get some sleep. Please drop a line whenever you'll find time. It is sure swell to get letters from back home.

Copen