

NEWS FROM THE FRONT



Dear Mr. Osborne:

I thank you very much for the "Hoover Rail", I am quite honored to be included in the list of the boys from home.

I will tell you something of our organization. We are here to learn a man's job, so we can be of service to our country, by taking a man's place, so that he may be able to go to sea.

Our "Boot Training" was five weeks long - there we were given numerous aptitude tests to determine the place we were best suited for - I, along with 200 others, were mechanically inclined, thus preparing for Machinists Mates. After five months training here, we will be able to capably look after airplane motors (Grease monkeys) They asked me where I learned about tools, and the only thing I could think of, was when I used

to help Ike Pearson clean "Travis Rods" on the Spinning Frames - I always figure that anyone who can learn to spin, can learn a simple thing like a motor.

When we came here on the station, we were on our best behavior, due to the fact that 12000 men and officers were watching us - you know girls - we had to show off a little. Our drilling was so much better than the men, that the Captain imposed extra drill on them, they like us though, in spite of that.

Again, I thank you for your nice paper, I'm sure all the boys like it as well as I.

Sincerely yours,  
Ruth (Mauney) Patterson, S2/c  
Memphis, Tennessee

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Got the little paper yesterday and sure was tickled over it. It is the nicest thing, I've seen - None of the boys here have anything like it, they all think its a good idea. Thanks a million for it.

I know some of the boys names listed in it - of course most of them have grown up since I left there.

I am beginning to like the Army better, as I get used to being on the run all the time - it is pretty tough at first, after being your own boss for so long. I expect to be here about two months yet. My class is supposed to graduate as Flying Fortress Mechanics, about the middle of March. The only trouble with a Technical School is that you don't have a chance to earn a rating until after you graduate. Some of us will leave here and go to the Flying Fortress factory at Seattle, Wash. to see them actually being made - then where to, we don't know.

I'll sure be glad to get out of Texas, the section where we are is terrible. There isn't a tree in sight anywhere. The temperature was seven degrees below zero last week - then we had a dust storm - it seems like an awful place, after living in Florida so long.

I'll have to sign off now and get my lessons.

My thanks again to all of you, who are putting out the "Hoover Rail"

Your friend,  
Everett Hastings,  
Amarillo, Texas