

A/S Arthur C Barton
Squadron G Section 5
N.A.A.C.
Nashville, Tenn.

Nashville
Nov 10
12:30 PM
1943
Tenn

Miss Sally Loving
c/o Washington-Lee H.S.
North 13th St.
Arlington, Va

November 8, 1943

Dear Miss Loving,

I have been intending to write you for several weeks but as I used to put off my home work indefinitely I do the same with my letters. I have been in touch with several of my classmates but I lost touch with my Alma Mater. I hope that through this letter I can mend a contact which had been broken.

I entered the Army Air Forces on July 7th and was sent to Greensboro, N.C. where an Air Force Basic Training Center is located.

At Greensboro I learned something about Army life which made me appreciate the life of a civilian.

For one thing, I don't care for rising at 5:00 A.M. or standing in line for everything but it certainly teaches patience.

I remained at Greensboro a little more than a month during which time I lived a "strictly G.I." life.

On August 10th I left Greensboro and the army life and went to the 55th College Training Detachment at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

We lived in the College Dorms and worked almost entirely under the supervision of college authorities. Our life was one of ease and the friendly Pennsylvanians made us most welcome. It was a vacation with pay as far as most of us were concerned and we'll never forget it.

At the "C.G.D" I had ten hours of flying under the War Training Service – Civil Aeronautics Authority program.

I made out rather well with the G.I exams and I completed the course in two and one half months.

Now, I'm in the Nashville Army Air Center in Tennessee where I've recently been classified for training as a Navigator under the A.A.F. Aviation Cadet Training Program. Although being classified as a Navigator is somewhat of an honor (Only one in twenty-five qualify for it) I was a little disappointed. I had my heart set on Pilot Training. Oh well, this is war and we can't always get what we want.

I don't care for this place. It contrasts to greatly with Gettysburg. There the sun shone brightly, the air was fresh and the fields were green. Here, on the other hand, I never see the sun, the air is full of smoke, and there are no green fields.

I've been home three times, for just a few hours a piece, but while I was at Basic Training I met such old friends as Robinson Loyd, Ralph Riely, Francis Witchey, Don Reid, Joe Galliot and Bill Millan. Robinson and Ralph should be here sometime next month. I hope to see them then.

On one of my few passes I did see Bill Royall and Jack Bauserman, who is coming into the A.A.F. I also saw Betty Jean McCrum and Jeanne Williams, so I haven't been entirely out of contact with Arlington.

Most of the V-12 boys were home last week and they had a swell time together, according to Jack Fahrney who is at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. He is doing very well but perhaps you saw him.

Lenny Meyer is at the University of South Carolina. He managed to get home for a while a few weeks ago. He is in the A.S.G.P.

Don Field is in the Military Police Escort Guard at Como Mississippi. He's guarding Italian prisoners of war.

The fellow I had closest contact with at Gettysburg was Gaylord Walker. He was with the Navy V-12 Unit at Mt. St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md. It was he who suggested my writing to you.

I'll close now for its getting late & I must turn in.

Best Wishes Always

Arthur C Barton

P.S. Please remember me to Mrs. Malott, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Christie and Mr. Richmond. Thanks.
ACB.