

Thursday 4/29

Dear Mom & Oney,

I received your letters yesterday. & they sure take a long time to get here. You'll never guess where I'm writing this letter from, either, but there's a reason why I'm writing in pencil.

I'm in the low pressure chamber, now, flying at 38,000 feet. You see, each of us is given a "side" in the low pressure chamber, so that we may be classified for flying at various altitudes. Some people can't stand high altitudes, while others can, & the various planes fly at different altitudes, for instances flying fortresses fly at about 35 to 40 thousand feet, higher than any others. So, each of us is taken to the chamber, where characteristics of atmosphere at various altitudes is duplicated. First, they take us to 5,000 feet & bring us right down, as a test & to show us how to keep our ears open on the way down. Then, we go up to 38,000 feet & stay there for 3 hours. We've been in here now almost $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. now. At 10,000 feet we begin using oxygen & continue until we get down. A couple

of fellows had to be taken down because they got sick. You see the pressure up here is very low, the gases inside you expand, & if you can't get rid of them, you get severe pains. Also, another ill effect called "bends" is caused by expansion of gases in joints & gives severe pains, but by the time you're down to 10,000 feet, you're rid of them.

Everything else is still the same here. It's getting very warm during the days, but we keep right on going. I suppose you know that I'm in a measles quarantine, but expect it to be removed soon. Pearl will get here this weekend, & I want to be out of it by then. It's not an official quarantine anyway.

How is the job so far? I bet you go to sleep earlier than I do now. We're not allowed to go to sleep until after 10 o'clock.

I don't know when you sent the package, but I didn't get it yet. If you didn't use the right address it will probably come back to you.

Give my regards to everyone & let me hear from you soon.
Marty

P.S. If you can't figure out why I have to use pencil, it's because the ink would just run out of the fountain pen at this altitude.
M.