

Allinguerquist, N. M.

Mar. 3, 1958

Dear Troops,

Romantic way to start a letter, isn't it? I have a little time in between appointments now so thought I'd get off a short letter while I'm waiting.

Had no trouble at all coming out here. The plane to Chicago was delayed about an hour in landing by some weather, but my connecting flight to ABO was about two hours late getting off so it all worked out OK. Arrived here a little after 1800, called the clinic and they came over and picked me up. Nothing was scheduled for that evening except to get our schedules firmed up and be ready to start on Saturday morning.

The group ahead of us was still here, so they regaled us with tales of horror and suspense about what we had to look forward to. So far, they've been right!

I won't even try to fill you in on all the gory details, but suffice it to say that it is a most complete physical and I mean complete.

On Saturday they started by lifting 25 cc. of blood and taking stool and urine samples. Then we had x-rays of the sinus, and heart. Then hydrostatic weighing, which is weighing under water in a special contraption from which they can determine body density, etc.

Also starting Sat. morning they wanted a 24 hr. urine specimen and gave each of us a gallon bottle in a paper sack and every time you let any water out, into the bottle it was to go. This was a small riot, all of us carrying our jugs around for 24 hrs and especially in the evening running out from dinner, etc. to fill the jug. My volume was below ^{the} average of the others (some beer drinkers in the group) but I told them mine was pure Chanel #5.

Two Drs took us out to dinner Sat evening. Got in about 1030, talked to roommate (AF Capt. from W. Patterson) until about 1200.

Sunday we got a complete electrocardiogram, turned in the 24 hr. brown jug, and then went back in the evening for a general going over similar to flight physical and an interview with a Dr. who questioned everything that ever happened to us medically.

Sun. afternoon was free from about 2-6, so three of us took one of our rental cars (OPEL's, 2 of them) and drove up into the Sandia Mts., Sandia Crest to be exact. 10,000 + ft. Lot of fun just looking around.

Mon They started another urine run only this one was on a more controlled basis and was after drinking a certain amount of radioactive water.

(Two guys with a geiger counter tried to stake a claim on me last night.)

Next was a liver function test in which they inject something into a vein, then take blood samples at 45 min and 1 hr.

Next was a neurological exam in which shock treatments play a large part. It was a rather tough one.

Almost had me crawling up the walls for awhile. Glad that one is over.

It involved making little cuts on my hand to get good electrode contacts, another one with a teensy-weensy needle stuck in to get good contact, then various shocks that would put the muscles in that area into spasms. Don't care for any more of that, thanks!

Today I've had an exercise test as the opener in which they run us on an exercise bicycle to max capacity while wired for electrocardiogram readings, respiration, and while breathing through a tube into a bag so they can analyse your breathing and ~~content~~ content of exhaled air. I did very well on this one.

Following that I had a different type electrocardiogram for an hour and a half.

It's 1130 now and I have to be
back at 1300 for a "blood volume"
test. Don't ask me how they
determine that, but if they try to
draw me, I'll object. After that,
I have my Ophthalmology exam,
which is a very fancy way of saying
eye exam. It takes about 4 hrs,
and includes dilation, arc light
flashes, pictures of the back of the
eye, etc. Endsquill, man, wayout!

On & on the rest of the week.
Should end up Saturday sometime.
The schedule at Dayton is all fucked up
and it appears that only 2 out of the
present 6 will go direct to Dayton
next week. Probably will cut
cards. So there is a possibility I
may be home earlier than expected
and go to Dayton at a later date.
Don't look for me till you see me,
however.

We're staying at a very nice
motel, The Desert Sands. Don't try to
write here since I'll probably be gone

before a letter would get here. In
emergency, the phone is 5-7586 (A39#)

I have to go get some lunch now
and get going back to the mill.

Annie, how about getting Lynn's
art stuff straightened out this week
while you have the car all the
time. Also hope Dave and D. Duck
get their science fair things all set
up. Sorry I'm not there to counsel
but they'll do OK.

Take it easy, all of you and I
may see you this week-end.

Lots of love,

Dad

Incidentally, mum's the word on
all this. Three AF pilots have been
dropped from the program just because
their names got to the wrong people.

Say nothin' to nobody 'bout nothin'!

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