F/o H. Gorton
Officers' Mess,
R.A.F. Silverstone,
No. Towcester,
Northants.
Friday.

Dearest,

Yesterday I very heartily regretted not catching the 5.0 a.m. train from Abergavenny. I reached Crewe on time but had to wait for the 5.10 ~~from~~ Rugby. That should have enabled me to catch a train to Blisworth, but we were an hour + late in Rugby, and I had to wait till 10.0 p.m. for a train to Northampton, where I arrived at 10.45. I rang up Silverstone, & the S.D.O. was very snooty when he learned that not only was I a pupil (that low species) but also I was two days late! The best he could do for me was to tell me of a liberty bus leaving Northampton at 11.20. I couldn't

IBCC Digital Archive

get a taxi at that time to take me to the bus stop, & in desperation was going to leave my bags at the Left luggage office when a friendly policeman took pity on me & carried me & my luggage to the bus. I eventually arrived here just after midnight. I haven't claimed any travelling expenses, as I thought it might involve too many awkward questions.

I expected to get a rocket this morning for arriving late, & the C.G.I., who interviewed me, obviously thought there was something fishy about the whole business. I told him I'd been on a course, & he asked when Cork had heard about my posting. As I didn't know for sure, I said I didn't know, & fortunately he was satisfied with that. If he'd asked

IBCC Digital Archive

IBCC Digital Archive

me when I'd heard about it, there would probably have been reactions, because I'm not very good at telling lies yet.

The Mess seems to be a comfortable place, but isn't as friendly as Cark. I've been lucky, however, as I've met F/O Durant, who was a wireless op. at Cark, and Macrae, who was an instructor at Ossington. Morris, our old friend of B flight (?) is here too, but I haven't seen him yet as he is at the satellite at present.

You will be amused to know that I am a "headless" pilot - strange phrase, isn't it? It means that I shall not be

IBCC Digital Archive

crewed up here, but shall wait till I get to the Conversion unit, and so I shall probably finish this course in two instead of three months.

I asked the C.G.I. if there was any chance of getting on to Pathfinders, & he said that practically all of them were second tour people, but that just occasionally they were asked to recommend some one. It looks to me like a 99 to one chance against.

Thank you very much, darling, for the wizard time I had at Newhouse. I honestly think it's worth any amount I risk I may run on Ops just to learn again how much you love me. I knew it before, but it's the sort of thing

that doesn't grow stale with repeating.

All my love, darling,

Harold.

IBCC Digital Archive