



Mrs J Smith
46 Garsick Rd
Northampton.



Same dump.

Mondney

Dear Mum.

Thank you ever so much for the padlock and the letter, the padlock fits very well, up till now I have been using the rit-bag lock, but of course it's not very strong for that. I'm terribly glad I had a car now as we are doing all the basic stuff first and of course it comes very easy to me, some of the chaps have never touched an engine except perhaps change the plugs and they simply can't grasp such things as magneto timing.

The people that came here on the same days are called entries.

I am no 5 entry² that means that we are the fifth lot to come here, entries have been coming in every Wednesday. The last one come last week making 7 entries that is all that will be coming here. For our classes we are split up into classes with only about 8 in a class so you get quite a bit of individual attention. The classes are taken in huge hangars and the classes are placed evenly in the hangar in rows and we sit on benches at a table and there is an engine at the back of each class ready to work on at any time, the instructors are all corporals who have been fitters at some time or other. There is a buzz of talking all the time of course, there is a blackboard to each class for the instructor to explain his theories.



I am so sorry to hear that the music box has packed up again, er - try giving it a Bechams pill they are quite good things for Phillips, or if you detect a noise at the back as of rushing water, try shaking it or pouring sand into it, all this goes for the efficient maintenance of the wireless. Are you sure that no mice have made their home in it? On Saturday night I had to do main gate guard with another chap and it was simply a filthy night, howling wind and driving rain, standing out there like a stoog with a fixed bayonet. In the place

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where you go when the other chap is on
guard there is a sort of range
and I got three mutton chops from
the cookhouse and some marg and
fried them in my mess tin in marg!

The food here is fairly good but
there is not really enough, sometimes I
quease up two and three times before
I am satisfied. We don't spend
the whole of the time on exercises but
do other things too. Once a week
we have an afternoon on what is
called "General Service Training"
when we have to rush about fields
in tin hat and all our webbing
throwing hand grenades, sawing
things down with star guns etc, and
jumping over streams and acting like
a bunch of stooges in general.

Sometimes when we get near a clump
of trees the sergeant shouts —



"squad dis-miss! and we all break up and have a smoke including the sergeant. We also get a lot of the theory part of it, Theory of Flight, and engines etc with lots of maths. The camp is purely self contained as regards some things it has a post office, hair dresser, hospital, dentist, grocers shop, cinema, theatre. There is also a place where they have rentals of gramophone records and the sort of music that I like such as Bach, Handel, and Tchaikowski, that every Tuesday and every Sunday night there is an ENSA concert from London and they are extremely good they keep you in

fit of uncontrollable laughter, they are absolutely original, nothing like the weak stuff you get at a theatre. It's totally different every week. It's about 10 o'clock now and all the Seesthemen are falling in & sozzled. The beds are in bank form, one above the other & the chap over me is a seestheman and he rolls in drunk most nights when he gets into bed & sways about like a leaf in the wind as every nut & bolt is loose on it, & I have many times taken him into the wash house & to back and put his head under water to cool him off. Well that's about all for now I think, Oh - about the watch, there is not a person in the camp with a watch that works because there is a radio location place just next and after about a week they become magnetised, do you



think that if I sent it home that you could get it demagnetised at Battersea you can get them done. Then if Dad by chance came across anyone that wanted to buy a watch he could let them have it & we have the other one that you have got, it would be less for me to lay out wouldn't it? We had a pay day last week and I got much less than I did at Marguay, they pay to the nearest of here, but at Marguay they gave you the odd shillings as well. Tell me what you think about the watch when you write.

all my love,

Mh.

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