

Wed. Evening

Dearest:

You certainly do write lovely letters. Mother says she wishes you would write her often so I guess I'm not the only one who likes them.

Sorry to hear of Ward DeBooth's death and Dick Murphy's illness. It has killed a lot of them around here but the epidemic seems to be on the decline now. Take good care of yourself because it's bad stuff and you cannot tell what it will do to you.

I did have a very bad throat and cough for a week after I got out of the hospital but I am absolutely OK now.

Well, today I was selected as one of 50 men to officer the entire school. I am a cadet junior lieutenant and wear two stripes on my sleeve

Over last two weeks here the best fifty are picked by the Commander of the Station and given a sort of a cadet commission which is good until ~~you~~<sup>we</sup> go to flying school.

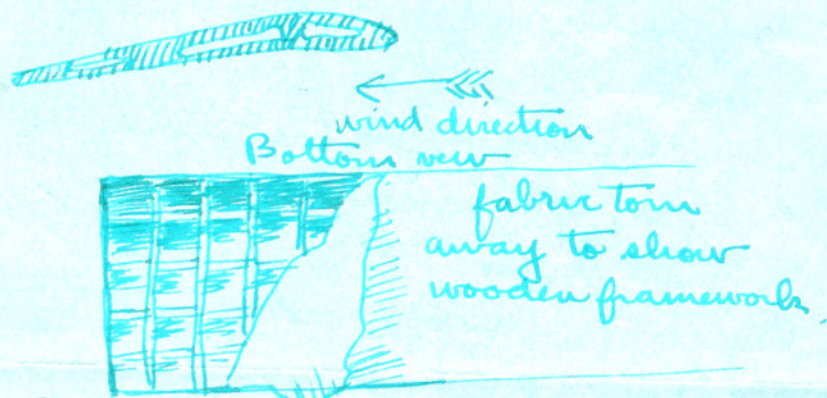
We are treated as regular officers by the rest of the men (about 1000 of them) and rate salutes as regular officers do. We no longer shoulder a gun but wear an officer belt and revolver in our drill formation and parade.

We also are given the privilege of choosing our own flying school and have other special opportunities, but we have the responsibility of maintaining the discipline and in fact running the whole school. It is a fortunate position to be in and it goes on your record showing that you have made good.



You asked me what wings were made of. They are simply canvas fabric stretched over a wooden framework and painted with "dope" or a sort of a waterproof varnish, and sometimes fireproof - at least nearly so.

They are built like this;  
Side view.



They are strong enough to stand on and in a biplane are braced apart with stream-lined woodstruts and held ridged with guy wires.

In a course of study called "Rigging" we have to learn every detail of construction

the why and wherefore of it all and the name of every part. At flying school and here we have to help build them. We also assemble aeroplane engines and know every detail. I also machine guns and bombs.

I am still rather dubious as to whether or not I shall see Julia next Saturday and Sunday, in fact there is a chance of the station being in quarantine every week-end until I leave. It's pretty hard lines but war is ~~the~~ and so is Spanish "Influenza".

Lots of love for you tonight dear. I've got to study hard for two exams tomorrow - one on Friday and one on Saturday. All finals. Just got a regulation overcoat from the tailor today. It's a dandy.

Yours  
Joe