SF

21 July 1981

Dear Ted:

Few more. Useless perhaps, but I send them along (something wrong with this ribbon). Description follows:

(A) This is original print and original negative of L to R , Chuck Rathbun (Poland, NY), Chuck Yeager, myself. Pic taken either 13 or 15 August 1942, not 22d as written on back. Not my writing. Section 64 correct, however, not 61. I sent Chuck a pull-up (5 x 7) from original neg. Please keep this original neg for your files on Chuck. Apologize for my presence in so many of these pics (I rate myself a big nil but am proud to have been in the same class w/Chuck), but we ran around together and hit the same Cadet section across the base on the same day, Chuck Rathbun from Hickam, Jeff Meyers from Payne Field, Chuck Yeager from Victorville and yrs truly from Muroc. I send along original print because detail better than that obtainable on pull-up today. In fact, one can make out the winged prop on our caps and the funny name tags we wore. In return for original neg (I have a copy neg, made when I thought I'd lost original) I wonder if you would get me a 5 x 7 from it? If not possible, forget it...no sweat...

(B) This for Chuck. He took it. Changed places with Orville "Jeff" Meyers (Astoria, Ore.) who now appears in center.

(C) Another one for Chuck. Pic of our billets at Hemet.

(D) " " " Flight line at Hemet (PT-22As). The ready room of hangar at left reserved for our flight, Flight E at primary. This is support and ground crews of 12th Pursuit Gp arrvg from Barksdale Field, La. and detraining across from main gate. I think date 12 February 1942. Personnel in foreground QMC. I had a whole series of good photos (Signal Corps) of this operation but think they burned in fire. Taken at Muroc.

E

(F) Lined up for review on same day A and B taken. For Chuck.

(G) C Flight, Avtn Student Battalion, same day, moving out. Morgan now pacing off for third file and Jeff Meyers for first. Chuck Yeager last in file just to right of that pole in backgrnd. D Flight just behind him. No one out of step. We were just going from route march to march. This for Chuck.

FOR CHUCK

(H) No 1: me, Jeff Meyers, Chuck Rathbun, L to R, at Hemet. Believe Chuck Yeager took pic. He probably has the one with himself in it or lost it over the years. Have no neg. Camera not mine. No 2: a fine array of washouts starting back through as cadets, Kearns, Utah, April 1943. Five of us were in 43-C. That's me in center above. Below are M/Sgt Puckett, Herb Rainwater and Bill Harris. Jeff Meyers took picture. Harris in turn took pic with Meyers in it. Rainwater has it. They split us between Drake University and Kans St. U. for pre-preflight (something new). Harris and I just managed to avoid being sent off the university in the ASTP Program. We both decided to take

the GCT (IQ) again and go all out. One ordinarily did not go all out when takg GCT. We both scored in Group 1 or highest 2%. Then we soon discovered why the old-timers warned us about going all out. Within three wks or so we were summoned individually to HQ and told that we were indeed fortunate in that the US was going to send us to college at govmt expense; that while we were going to be reduced to private, it didn't really matter because all of our expenses were paid, incl. free board and room, etc. Then we could be officers for four yrs.

I was told that I had a choice of medical, dental or veteranarian school, or that I could take engineering. Some choice. I preferred architecture, aeronautical engineering or arts and history. I also had a choice of the University of Utah, Illinois or Michigan. Some choice. I stated that I was awaiting reappointment to cadets. I was told that I had no choice but ASTP and that if I refused I would be busted anyway. Harris and I started sweating but the orders reapptg us to cadets arrived within days and we hustled the hell out of Gardner before the left hand found out what the right was doing...

(I) This neg of B-18 (no A conversion of nose) cannibalized has some significance but don't recall what. I have two more negs exactly alike. Think this taken at Muroc but not sure.

Finally, this is it, Ted.

Cheers!

Jim