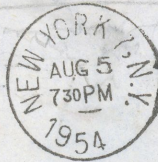


Pfc Robert A. Hartley RA 52345873
542nd Ordnance Detachment (EOD)
Governors Island, New York 4, N.Y.



VIA AIR MAIL

Miss Lillian Kramer
Room # 440
C/O HOTEL REGIS
Mexico City, Mexico

5 August 1954
New York 4, N.Y.

Dearest Lillian,

I received a letter from you yesterday and one today. Was very glad to hear from you. At least you haven't completely forgotten me. (Ha) I was surprised to hear that you got sick watching a bull fight. I think that would be a most thrilling thing to see. Of course I am a country boy and things like that don't excite me too much. I would love to see a good bull fight.

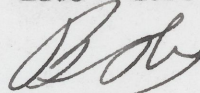
I hope you are enjoying your stay in Mexico City. I imagine there is a lot of things there that is most interesting to see. I am sending you a picture that was in yesterdays paper. It probably won't interest you much but I understand that this is the same air lines that you went by. There was 37 passengers aboard the plane but fortunately there wasn't anyone killed. There was just eight of the passengers injured. I am not trying to scarce you so you will be afraid to fly back. (Ha)

I am going home on a three day pass this week-end. I am leaving tomorrow afternoon and coming back Monday. I have to be here by Tuesday morning. Sure is a long drive for such a short time that I can stay home. I will probably ~~get~~ get home about noon Saturday and will have to start back Monday about noon. I took my car uptown yesterday morning for the 3000 mile checkup. I am supposed to get it back sometime this afternoon.

As usual, I am loafing today. It gets very tiresome just sitting around doing nothing at all. Although I should consider myself lucky because I have it so easy. I am still thinking of you and miss you very much. You can't come back to soon to suit me. I really mean it. Honey, I hardly know what to do when you are not here.

I got caught again Monday for running a red light up on west 56th street. I made a left turn on a right turn light signal. The policeman was standing there directing traffic. He said "Just because you are driving an army vehicle that gives you no right to run a red light!" I said "I am sorry but the lights were a little confusing." He let me go without giving me a ticket. Maybe I should be careful. (Hu) I still think I am a good driver. (Ha, Ha) Well, Honey there isn't anything to write about so will have to close. Remember, you are supposed to write me every day.

Love & best wishes,





SCENE OF TRAGEDY . . . Rescue workers pause at the twisted wreckage to watch a Coast Guard helicopter flying over the destruction. The plane, bound for New York and Mexico City from Paris, was scheduled to land at Idlewild Airport, but the pilot, Jean Caboche, feared to come down in the murk and rain and headed for an emergency landing in Hartford, Conn., or Boston. . . . Wirephoto from AP.