

I had my last hour of formation flying today with my old instructor riding the lead ship (only the wing men are students). Formation is really fun you have to fly as one plane (theoretically) and the coordination of throttle, controls and eye is really a challenge. These are such nice ships to fly too - honestly Jim, you can do damn near anything in them.

I sure wish I could get home for Christmas this year. Perhaps it just means a little more these days. It has been nine months now and I think the old homestead would look pretty nice. However, we should manage a ten day leave from advances (I hope - a hope) and then I know I could make it. In fact I'd almost take a chance on getting home now if I was at least 4 days off. You see, there's always the slim chance I could hop a plane north from Bakersfield. They run a lot of freight up and down this coast here and there might always be some haphazard hope for a trip through. Every time I get up near the airway there I see Army transports and even Navy flying boats. Ah, well, I can hope! Gee whizz, if I had a BT, clear weather, and refueling privileges I could fly home in about 10 hours easily. And they will cruise at 150 if you push the throttle and adjust the mixture control a wee bit! Oh well.

I've heard the days are cool and clear up there lately. Even a slight fog (radiation?) in the mornings.