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We spent many days in the plane learning to shoot, bomb, locate targets, identifying all the planes used by the Germans, Japs and the allies. I had lots of fun shooting at Jack-Rabbits and Farmer haystacks with fifty caliber machine guns. We were stationed later in Kearney, Nebraska, where James Jr. got his beginning. Gladys had come up to Sioux Falls while I was there. She then came to Kearney, Nebraska and later we moved to Sioux City Iowa and she came and visited me there.

About this time the ~~Germans~~<sup>Germans</sup> were shooting down hundreds of B-17 Bombers that were making daily raids over Germany. We were losing so many planes that the number of crews in training had to be doubled. More instructors were need so the top ten crews finishing with the highest marks were chosen to be instructors, my crew was number two. My pilot was an 'Eager Beaver' and anxious to go overseas and bomb the Germans. After reading the paper each day about the heavy losses, I was that eager to get over there. I'm sure that the prayers of the people back home ~~was~~ had much to do with this. I was very fortunate in being promoted very rapidly. I went from a private to a Tech-Sergeant in one