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United States Army Air Force

Thursday evening September 16, 1943

Dear Dad,

I don't know how much you think of air development as the road to Utopia but I do know that boys, officers and instructors in the Air Corps see it as such.

Before Germany demonstrated the surprising destructive power of the airplane new development in aviation was comparatively [sic] slow. But now the best minds, materiel [sic], workmen and personel [sic] are combining to turn out and fly machines which would have seemed as dreams a few years ago. Samples are the Northrup Wing, the Sikorsky helicopter, the 100% fool proof radar navigation and the secret new gigantic U.S. secret wepons [sic] — B-29 and B-32. And the future seems to hold promise for even greater progress.

All this development in the air is going to raise quite a few questions. The Air Corps wants all military aviation under one roof despite the fact that land and carrier operation is entirely different. Maybe carriers will become obsolete though.

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Plans have been laid for a four year West Point of the Air at Randolph Field, Texas. Then there is the question of how much to rely on air power — in war; as a police force; as transport. That in turn brings up the biget [sic] question - how big an Air Corps is desired in personel [sic], machines, bases? With the rapid developments in aviation making planes obsolete inside of a year there comes the question of turnover annually.

Similar problems will hit the general public too. What is the future of the airlines? Will every family own a plane? How will air safety be maintained? How will aviation be regulated? Does national sovereignty apply to the air? How will the transition period hit the aviation industry? What will be the sociological effects of an air age?

Everyone seems positive that it will all work out for the better but very little has been studied or planned. This time next summer will see some U.S. air marvels revolutionize air war. After that we must adjust ourselves.

I now have seven hours of flying but somehow I just don't seem to get the feel of it all. I know how it should be done but when I get in the air something goes wrong. However I should solo

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next week and maybe I'll get the knack of it yet.

I'm going to try getting a call through to you all this Sunday again.

I wish you would send me Ede's letter. Has Dickinson made any post-war plans?  
How about the law school?

Say hello to everyone for me.

Lee