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Friday evening

December 8, 1944

Dear Mother,

Even if my letters take a month to reach you I hope you understand that I am thinking of you always. Over here one loses [sic] count of the days; the past home life often seems far from present army life. Because of exasperating slowness of mail delivery the last letter received from you was written November ninth. So if at times you do not hear from me for several days please do not worry.

There really is not much news from here. I am fine; my aircrew is fine; Blue Hen Chick is fine. Time is spent in combat flying, practice flying, test hops, ground training, visits to London and self maintenance [sic]. But -- it is not dull and routine.

A world wide survey of all United States Air Force

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personnel is being completed this month. Each member was classified in one of three categories [sic] i.e. interested in a career in the regular Air Forces after the war, interested in a reserve status or not interested in the post war Air Forces. No binding agreement was made but the survey will act as a foundation for postwar plans. I indicated interest in an Air Forces career.

All indicating interest in an Air Forces career will be rated under a complicated system based on age, health, education, civilian and army experience, combat and overseas duty and commanding officer ratings. After the war the Army, Navy and Air Forces may be three semi-independent units under one supreme chief of staff. In peace chief national defense will rest with far reaching Navy and Air Forces units. The Navy has the personnel for the job but the comparatively young Air Forces must draw from young

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newly-trained reserve and draft personnel and it will seek to retain the best qualified to fill its quota. The life will offer security of position, travel, half again base pay for flying personnel, old age pension, fair chance to advance, national service and not too much hard work. But one could not settle in any one spot and personal freedom would be restricted. I have not decided to make a career of the Air Forces yet.

Enclosed you will find a receipt for \$130.00 which I am sending through the base finance office.

Let me hear from you.

Love,

Lee