Tuesday evening
December 19, 1944

Dear Mother,

I returned from pass
est evening only to
find the airbase fog
bound. I sincerely
hope that the weather
clears up soon so that
we can help the ground
troops break the German
counteroffense in
France.

I visited London
again on this last
pass. This time I
assumed the role of a
government and sampled
wartime meals of
London restaurants.

The Grosvenor House
American Officers Mess
serves the best balanced
meals, the best prepared
and the cheapest. (26, two
and six, fifty American
pennies). There is also
a good bar and a nice reading room. The dining room of the Regent Palace Hotel offers poor, sparse vegetable dinners for six shillings amidst elegant atmosphere. Lyons Corner House, a six-story Horn and Hardart, offers much the same although better prepared and cafeteria style. Driver's serves very good seafood meals: oysters on the half shell, lobster, trout. In the small Pompeian Restaurant one can get a fine spaghetti dinner and small but excellent steak. At Prices on the Strand for a ten shilling note you get all the chicken you can eat. No remarks. But with your meals in London today you can get no milk and very poor coffee. Tea or beer are served, some wine and water, if you ask for
Tea at four is just another meal with everyone stuffing himself full of pastry, (hardly any sweetening), toast and tea.

Between bites I managed to see the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace (no fancy dress during war) and a fair revue: "Happy and Glorious.

A new pass policy has been instituted in this bomb-struck town. Every twenty-four days we get a two-day pass and a two-day stand down for training.

The mail situation puzzles me. Today I received your letter of November Seventeenth. Five days ago I received your letter of November Fourteenth. However, I have received an impressive lot of Christmas packages. The last, except for one
very good fruit cake, remains unopened till Christmas.

This will be my second Christmas as an Air Force soldier and, I hope, my last. But the enemy is strong and he may force the fight to continue past this Christmas. I sort of feel that I should stay in action here with the 8th, at least until Germany is defeated. But I will come home and then we will have a real Christmas together.

Merry Christmas to you and all the family.

Love,

Lee