

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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RALPH L. MINKER
SUPERINTENDENT

Ferris School for Boys

BOX 230

Wilmington 99, Delaware

January 6, 1945

My dear Lee:

Life is settling down a bit after a rather strenuous December - the Sixth War Loan Drive and Christmas. We got by far the best cooperation to date on the War Bond Drive. The response during the last two weeks of the Drive was just wonderful. My big day was a "four speech" tour of the Dravo plant. You know the plant, I think - building P.T. Boats in big quantities. They would assemble the workers of one section. I'd get upon a table or some scaffolding, and open upon them with everything I had. The response was fine - they bought \$600,000 worth of bonds during the Drive.

Christmas was made into something like Christmas by your cablegram. That really made the day. Everything fell into its proper place - the giggling girls, the two grandmothers and

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unsurpassable mother. I hope you had your drumstick - Walter and I ate the ones here. (Turkeys were pretty high, by the way, - 60 cents per pound, i. e., seven cents over the ceiling price.) May Hanning spent a few hours with us. Julia came over and had breakfast with us on Tuesday. The Oberlin girls had to leave Tuesday night. Julia looked fine and seems to be getting a great deal out of the school. Shirley is continuing her good work. In another five months she will have completed her course. It hasn't seemed very long ago that she was just starting. Bernice is in every thing at Tower Hill - and you don't have to worry about her. She has a pretty level head on her shoulders. We're keeping the home fires burning. Be assured of that.

Everyone was so delighted with your Christmas letter. Congratulations on the promotion - and good flying, Lieutenant!

I saw a pre-view of "Combat America", the Clark Gable description

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of the 8th Air Force. You can imagine what it meant to me. We're planning a War Bond night at the Playhouse featuring the film. I'll take mother and Bernice.

I was interested in your word about the survey being taken of Air Force personnel looking forward to postwar plans. You know some parts of the picture - and I know you'll make the best decisions possible. I do think you are wise in showing an active interest. They are probably anxious to feel that many of the fellows like the life so well they want to stay in it. I also think you are wise in not tying yourself up too tightly. Feeling is at fever pitch now - a war is on. Unless I miss my guess terribly - the world is going to be fed up with war for a long time after this is over, and much of the prestige that goes with military life will pass. A peace time military force falls pretty nearly into the category of a police force. I am not belittling it - and

you know I'd say, "God bless you," if you felt this was what you wanted to do. I am simply giving you a slant from my own background. You don't have to worry about security, income, etc. Those things will take care of themselves because you know how to pitch and to keep pitching." The Law School doors will be open to you if you care to enter them as an interim training. My own thought is that there is no better preparation for any field, humanics, legal, business or political. All that you are doing now plus all that you will do will gear into your total life program in a way you can't foresee.

How I've enjoyed chatting along this way with you! Maybe it won't be too long until we're face to face talking things over. Here's to it.

The best to you always and everywhere!

As always

Dad -