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Wednesday evening

January 24, 1945

Dear Dad,

I have been working rather hard this month and as a result I have sadly neglected my correspondence.

Since the rush of the German Christmas counter offensive against us I have been bombing rear supply and repair depots, transportation centers and Luftwaffe bases. We have been flying in unimaginable extremes of weather and bombing by means of master pathfinder equipment which makes possible bombing through clouds. Here's hoping our efforts and those of our ground troops will join with the Russian winter drive in bringing a quick end to the German phase of this war.

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The sobering effect of the German counter offense should put the United States in the right attitude for settling post war problems after prosecuting with full vigor the defeat of Germany and Japan.

It seems to me that Senator Vandenburg has found a good formula for a post war foreign policy: full presidential freedom of action concerning Germany and Japan, but reserving the Senate's right of review of other problems and right of censure of all. We must maintain a large Navy and Air Force and an Army large enough to form a fighting and training nucleus if total mobilization is necessary. We must have outlying bases. We must uphold worldwide freedom of trade, press, speech [sic] and religion. We must realize our

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responsibilities in the world.

As Henry Wallace says, we must strive for a full employment of manpower in private industry but excessive slack must be provided for by the national government. The problem is so large that it must have national direction but it must be more decisive than in the past. (shift unemployed from crowded areas to frontiers; work to eat). Backward areas must be developed. Business must be regulated.

Discharge and assimilation of servicemen must be handled carefully. There must be no excuse for a future "bonus" army, the men must be able to enter civilian life "on their feet." Men with dependents should be discharged first but

there should be no difference between married and single men. Age and combat experience should

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count. Those who have had schooling interrupted should be allowed to continue on a semi-duty status. (Full national service for all upon completion of high school or about eighteen years of age seems like a good idea for elementary military indoctrination [not in schools], health checks and a year of C.C.C. type of service). Caution must be exercised so that exservicemen do not join outrageous pressure organizations.

I note from the clippings in all the letters from home that the Blue Bombers are pacing the basketball league again this year. It must be quite a problem to get a real team together for any period of time though. I suppose prospects of the Blue Rocks fielding a baseball team this spring are rather slim.

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The latest letter received here was written by Mother on December twenty ninth. Recently I have received letters from Mr. Baker, Mr. Montgomery, Daisy Wilson, Mrs. Sanders, Dr. Elizabeth, Charles Bossert (in the west Pacific), Polly Jacoby, Grandmother Jones, Dr. Wing and parents or wives of my air crew to whom I sent Christmas greetings.

Today - typical army waste - the 447th Bombardment Group "stood down" while Major General Partridge, C.O. of the 4th Combat Wing, Third Division, U.S. 8th Army Air Force, inspected the base and personnel.

Will write soon again.

Yours,

Lee