

DYERSBURG ARMY AIR BASE
HALLS, TENNESSEE

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Dear Is,

Although my very brief visit with you seems years ago, I still have your letter in front of me. I was sorry to learn that the Republicans won but happy to hear that you won your district.

Your letter got me wondering. I guess from all the laws of nature, I should be deeply impressed by my new station in life, the post-War world, etc. But in reality, I'm afraid I'm not, Is.

I know I have a hell of a big job ahead of me and I am training hard to set myself for it. As for the peace, I'm afraid I'm leaving that up to FDR and his cohorts and depending on you and others like you to try to educate the people around you.

We have political disagreements here every so often, and it all boils down to one thing, politically. Roosevelt will be reelected because no other man can take his place while we are at war! Even the rich Republicans here who oppose the Democrats agreed. So we end the political arguments with that conclusion every time. Of course the civilians may fool us, but it will be a cruel blow for morale if FDR is not reelected. As for the peace: we completely trust Roosevelt (not Churchill) and have to let it go at that although our sentiments are for complete annihilation of Germany and Japan.

I am not worried about my postwar plans as I know I can get settled into a decent job. What the others are planning, I don't know. We are all very anxious to get home, though not foolish enough to believe that we'll be able to compete successfully with anything that confronts us as civilians.

And as far as my realizing I've changed, I guess I don't. I only know I'm getting older and am ready to take my place in civilian life. I may be more

serious, I don't know. I still think first of a good time! You must be confused and puzzled over my ravings about life etc., but remember – my concluding remarks on my philosophy of life – that when you are not a hundred percent sure of ever seeing your family again or ever being anything but a soldier, you can't take time to think of anything serious but your present job. I only think of postwar days -- at first, of course -- is that I'll be able to relax and see my pals once again before finally settling down. You'd be surprised if you knew how much we think of our past, that is, our friends. Every day I am more thankful for having been able to be in Pi Lam, among other things.

I am training for the European theater. Our first impression was that we would be sent to the Pacific. Most of our fellows will, but we B-17 men will not. We may eventually get there after we clean up Germany, though. They're really getting it now and with the debut of the B-29, due very soon, it may end soon. I hope so anyway.

Our visit was definitely too short but that's the way it goes these days.

I have hopes of seeing Jerry Zivan, Al Krasne and Dave Levitsky before I go over. Jerry is near St. Louis, Al is in St. Louis and Dave is in Missouri. St. Louis is about 200 mi. from here. I'd like to get up there at least once. If we all get a longer pass for Christmas but not long enough to go home, we definitely will get together.

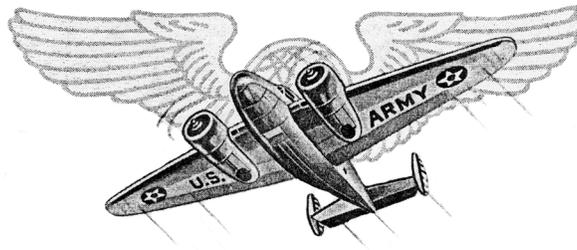
Are the fellows making any progress towards reestablishing the fraternity? I hope they do. We who aren't there all want them to, and every Pi Lam who writes me says we will reopen as soon as this war is over and we will! But it will be easier if there is a chapter (if it is a good one) when we get home.

I didn't do much navigating in Texas as we didn't make any long trips although we did a lot of flying, but we will be really traveling now and my work will be cut out for me. My biggest navigation job will be taking a B-17 over to England.

I shall probably leave the country sometime in February, so until that I have to perfect my navigation as much as possible. It will be interesting to see how my mind runs when I am in a combat area, but until then I believe you can see that I am doing too little, probably, worrying about the world's problems.

All I can say now is that it was wonderful to see you and your cigar, even though it was definitely too abbreviated a time.

I'm expecting you to carry the torch, which will enable us all to come back to decent civilization, though my frivolous thoughts still upset you. You can be assured that you have a wonderful air force fighting for you. We really know how to do our jobs regardless of how serious or silly we are in off moments.



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Give my regards to Ben and Max when you write them, and any of the others who remember me for good or bad. Lou, Ray, Esmark, etc.

I'll be looking forward to a letter with your disillusioned reactions.

My very best,

Koko