

Mentions

Air Group
commander

Commander

Konrad

also about
book read

10/17/44

Dear Folks,

This is the first letter, I believe, I've ever written from Nevada. We're at an auxiliary air station that is, despite the distance, attached to N.A.S., Alameda, and are here merely because it seemed to be the most convenient place (most available) with facilities to handle certain phases of our flying syllabus that could not be handled at the

main station. Actually ²
we're one of the few air
groups that has not been
based at an auxiliary air
station most of the time.

True, Alameda is large
and growing, but that
means of course that
there is an awful lot
going on thereabouts and
much air space being used.

I had an idea that
perhaps you would be
around Great Neck a little
longer. Perhaps it was
a space problem that
caused you, Pa., not to linger

There until Ma picked
 you up on the way back
 from Washington, an other-
 wise logical thing to do
 seems to me. I may say
 it was rather typical,
 reminding me of the patheti-
 cally short Florida trip
 not so long ago. Now
 that the Rees have gone
 and Jack is at school,
 couldn't you afford to
 linger a little longer
 on trips? At least you
 can when this bloody
 business at hand is over.

Selfishly, I've been thinking what I'd like to do in the way of vacationing when the war is over, but much if not most of it I'd like to do with you, especially if, as seems more than likely, I'm still a bachelor.

First of course I'd prefer to do nothing except play around Grotton and Square, chasing birds and perhaps golf balls, climbing mountains and in the evenings, except when

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occasionally chasing some-
thing different, listening
to Beethoven, Brahms, etc.,
and to one of you reading
aloud. Yes, that would
be about as nice as anything
for a while.

Well, it would not be
surprising if after a few
weeks or so this person
became restless, and why,
unless the season of the
year were too unfavorable
(if possible), wouldn't that
be a good time for a trip
somewhere? You two and
not me should be the first
to⁹⁰, though I'd like to go if

still unsettled. Perhaps
 Nance would like to come
 if still unattached and
 Jack if it's summer. I'm
 assuming Henry will be
 married. In any case I'm
 thinking of something
 fairly ambitious that
 would pretty well cover
 our West and include
 even parts of both Canada
 and Mexico. If along, I
 could of course show you
 much, but in any case
 could advise you of places
 not to miss, etc. Good
 idea all this?

Perhaps you've been wondering if I've any more permanent plans, and certainly I have no intention of wearing out the old tweed jacket before deciding what to do with my life.

Perhaps you'll agree that ^{when a civilization once more} I should not worry too much about being thirty odd (!) and not settled down into a nice substantial job. At any rate I have no intention of so worrying and taking the first or second thing that comes along even if it does look

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pretty good. I'm rather inclined to think that in spite of seven years of college and in spite of my age the best thing I could do would be to go right back to Michigan or somewhere and pick up where I left off; not, however, omitting much refreshing. I'd look for an assistantship and further help only from my war bonds or Uncle Sam, especially in the latter case, if I ^{let my conscience} can persuade him that my education was interrupted by the war.

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Whether I could ever work
up to a Ph.D seems doubt-
ful in view of all I've
forgotten and all the new
material I'd not only have
to expose myself to but
absorb - that in and
make it worth the time -
but its something to
think about for someone
who would rather like
to become connected to an
academic institution. I've
gotten so that I think
I'd actually like teaching.
Though the right kind of
research would probably
appeal to me more. This

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should, ^{perhaps} best follow a
practical field job of a
year or two or three with
some such government
agency as the Forest
Service or the Biological
Survey. It might even
be best to stay with
Uncle Sam if one could
ever get far enough up
to earn a decent salary,
to say nothing about the
difficulties getting started
what with depression
coming along, etc. Oh for
a beautiful heiness, the
ability to write or something!

For the moment I forgot about Henry, another reason for your wanting to get back to Groton. Those days in N.Y. and D.C. must have been pretty hectic. Too bad you couldn't, as I hinted before, have enjoyed them at leisure. Again I bid myself for sending my last letter to Great Neck.

There's only a chance in a million of course I'll see Henry. Fresno is pretty far for one thing, and its obvious Air Group 17 is not

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going to linger around much longer, which reminds me that I never told you the name of our commander, which is Konrad. He is of course a full commander and the immediate boss of the three squadron skipper. His job is largely coordinating one, and he usually has part of the fighter squadron with him being in a Hellcat himself. Though he could fly independently. He is the highest ranking officer aboard a carrier that flies ordinarily, speaking of group

commanders in general, and
Comdr. Konrad, who looks
fortyish, speaking of me in
particular, seems a very fine
man.

Before I go I hope to
have time to stock up on
a few substantial books,
especially recognized classics
that I not only should
have read, but probably
would enjoy, like "Vanity
Fair," "Tom Jones," "Moby
Dick" or at least that
sort of thing. So give me
a book store with a good
Modern Library section, and

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just in case there is still
a chance to get some of
them (not necessarily buy,
perhaps just borrow from
the ship's library). How
about some sort of a list,
Pa., of the best works of
people like Fielding, Scott,
Tobson, Dickens, etc.,
in other words something
that would include the
novels (not anything
non-fiction except of course
poetry, which I intend to
partake of also ~~too~~, would
be dull, wouldn't it?)
generally recognized as

The most significant
ones of the period, ^{from} when
ever novels were first well
written (late 18th cent.?)

through the last century
or the first part of this.

A list of ^{strictly} modern books
would be ~~asking~~ too much
to ask for from even an
English "professor." I'm afraid

Of course I've read
some of the "classics," but
only "Pride and Prejudice"
and "Wuthering Heights" at
all recently, and how I
did enjoy the former especially.

I might conclude ^{with} a brief description of our location here. It's pretty much desert except that there are considerable irrigated areas nearby, all the land for miles around being so flat as to be what must have once been a lake bottom. There are barren mountains in the distance on all sides. Poor drainage in certain ^{places} has resulted in swampy areas that teem with ducks and geese (including snow geese).

may be as common, and we also see a coyote and a badger both very close. Well, the next may be removed!
Love Toot