



F/O Joseph W. Hays

4-11-45

Dear Folks,

No hum, this has been and is an extremely lazy day. Papa, if you were here on a day like this you could bet your bottom shilling that we would go fishing. I don't know where but we'd go even if we didn't take any poles. This is one of the days that you hope the fish don't bite because it would take energy to pull them out. While I talking about pleasant things I'll announce that our crew has another pass starting the 13th ~~and~~ at 0600 and lasting for 60 hours. I haven't decided whether I'll go to London, back to Bournemouth again, or somewhere else. It depends mostly on the train schedules. It really doesn't make too much difference on a 60 hour pass. There really isn't too much you can do in such a short time.

I'm enclosing the certificate they gave me showing that I have earned a cluster for my Air Medal. I'm sending the Air Medal itself, along with a German ~~E~~ pocket knife, and some post cards from London and Bruxelles in a separate box. As soon as I get a larger box I'm going to send the big snow picture that we had made in Tucson, Papa's .38 pistol, and some other junk. There isn't a .38 shell in England. The pictures we made while in London last time haven't been developed yet. I'll send them as soon as they are. Speaking of sending, I've got something that I want you to send to me but I'll save that for the end of the letter.

Right now I'd better tell you about this Air Medal deal before you get all excited like all the other boy's families. To get the A.M. you don't have to get shot down, shot at, hit, or anything. They give it to you for just managing to keep on living. So far that hasn't been a bit of trouble despite the chow over here.

So far Mama, you haven't said one way

or another whether you ever sent Dolly my picture. You just said that you would see what you could do about it, and knowing my mother like I do, that ain't proof of "nothing". You asked me how serious it was so I'll tell you. She is a very charming young lady that I met in Topoka. Any how she charmed me. She is not definitely one of my post war plans but I think that she is at least worth looking into. So you see, it is not a case like Jerry's neither is it a case where that I would just snap my fingers. I haven't committed myself in any way so don't worry about it. Amy, I'm going to do just what Matt told Jeff in the funny paper. That is, go back and take a second look.

The mail just came in and I had three letters, one each from Ruth, Amy, and Grace. Not bad for a one day haul. Tom had one from Marcia wanting to know why I hadn't written, maybe she'll catch on one of these days.

Now for my request. I want a box of graham crackers and some salted peanuts. If you can't get some already bottled go down to Mr. ~~Mr.~~ Kvesner buy some and bottle them yourself. You might put some mouldy old home made

Candy or cookies in too if you want to.

That is about all for now so I'll quit,
with all my love,



Joe