

March 9, 1943.

Lt. Col. Elliott Roosevelt -O-398475,  
A. P. O. 520 - Care Postmaster  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Elliott:

I read with interest a few days ago your statement addressed to Fritz Lanham regarding the unjust criticism made by Representative Lambertson of Kansas against the Roosevelt boys and their war activities. It was a damn good statement and I congratulate you.

Enclosed, herewith, is an editorial which appeared in Sunday's Star-Telegram, which I thought would be of interest to you: "Retort to Spitefulness".

I talked with Ruth over the telephone to get your address and saw her at the Club Sunday night and she thanked me for the editorial.

When I did not hear from you again in England, I assumed that you had moved on to other quarters. Incidentally, I stayed over there until December 18th and arrived in New York the day after Christmas and home December 30th. I was with Amon Junior up until the time he departed for your neighborhood on December 10th. I think he arrived there a few days before Christmas. The last letter I had from him was just a hasty note written February 4th, postmarked February 8th and arrived here March 4th. Ruth said she had received two letters from you recently -- one in the last few days which only took about ten days for its arrival.

Enclosed, you will find a clipping from Sunday's paper concerning some of the boys in Amon's division. If you happen to be in his neighborhood anytime, I am sure he would be tickled to death to see you. He is in the 91st Field Artillery, Battery B, First Armored Division.

Everything is moving along at home and the public is gradually realizing day by day, more and more, in every way the fact that we are in the war. The casualty lists, wounded and those reported missing and to all of the families who have their loved ones in the service, together with Mr. Morgenthau's program and the O.P.A., War Rationing Board, how many cans of beans they can have a month and other necessary measures will bring home to them, and quickly, the problems confronting us. It is not a question of winning the way, it is a question of how much punishment we will have to take to do so.

I am not sure just what the censor will permit, but I am enclosing the front page of today's paper relating some of the activities of which you should know something about.

I gave Ruth a "Jerobaum" of champagne which we are all to open with you on your next visit back home. While I do not like or drink champagne, ordinarily, I will certainly take one with you. The last and only drink I have had since June 15th, and the only one I ever had with Amon Junior, was in Buckingham Palace on Thanksgiving Day.

Dallas and Fort Worth are in another controversy about the midway airport-- the controversy is mostly on the part of Mayor Rodgers. As yet, we have not answered his tirades which have been revised after something was settled thirteen months ago and the airport practically completed.

I hope you are getting along fine and just want you to know that all of your friends are delighted and pleased with your record and the services you, all of your brothers and your Dad are rendering our country. Keep the good work up and don't worry about the dynamiters. Time will take care of them.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

## Retort to Spitefulness.

ORDINARILY most of us are of the opinion that the mouthings of the envious and spiteful ought to be ignored. But these are special times, and in the case of the misguided Congressman who has used his position to publish ignoble attacks upon the integrity of the President's sons who are in the armed forces, most of us will hold that Lt. Col. Elliott Roosevelt was not only exercising his rights, but fulfilling a duty when he wrote from the African front to his own Congressman, Representative Lanham, a request that "we be allowed to fight without being stabbed in the back for the sake of politics." The First Lady, the Colonel's mother, doubtless having in mind other unfair attacks by political opponents upon the President's family, expressed the opinion that Colonel Roosevelt should not have "bothered." With all respect for Mrs. Roosevelt's feelings in the matter, we must disagree with her on this.

In general it ill behoves any person, safely at home and exposed to no more perils of war than sundry rationing and taxation, to disparage any other person who is more directly serving his country. No man in uniform could be doing less to win the war or to reflect credit upon himself than Representative Lambertson, the malignant Kansan to whom Colonel Roosevelt's letter referred. The record of the Roosevelt sons in the services needs no defense. Just as other young Americans have put themselves in the hands of their commanding officers and thereafter have gone where they were sent and done what they have been assigned to do, they have been American soldiers. That is at once the simple measure and the glory of true Americanism. There is nothing in Representative Lambertson's career that can surpass, as recommendation, the simple fact that a man wears his country's uniform.

Our men at the front, any and all of them, have the right to expect that they will be free from personal and general attacks upon their honor and integrity while they are in the service. To the "backstabbers" there is a ready retort: It is: "Show yourself to be as good an American as the man you attack, and then talk."