

E. T. O.  
Dec. 17, 1943

Dear Folks,

Haven't written you a regular letter for quite some time. Don't have a lot to write, but maybe you'd like a longer one.

By the way, before I forget, I have never received that application for the V. F. W. I'd like to join if you think they wouldn't blackball me. Seems sorta funny to me that I should be eligible for the organization. I remember how I used to try to get Dad to talk about the other war and how interesting it was to me. And how I used to get down the "War Book," as I called it, (the one with all the World War I pictures in it,) and look at it

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for hours. And, how I would say  
"I'm going to be a soldier," and Mom  
would chime in with, "You are  
not." And now look, I'm a  
potential Vet. of Foreign Wars. Bet  
you never expected that when I  
had the St. Vitus Dance or when I  
had the rheumatism. What a  
sickly little brat I was. Must  
have been an awful lot of trouble.  
Guess you never thought I'd  
ever bring you such a beautiful  
daughter, either, did you? And  
such a wonderful one, too. I  
can't wait to get back and  
start bringing you some  
grandchildren next. Wonder if  
they'll call Mom "Gramma" and  
Dad "Grampa". Won't you

feel just a little embarrassed when they do? And Johnnie will be "Aunt Johnnie" - and there's "Uncle Ed". Won't that be 'sumpin'?

I've changed my insurance so that Jean will get \$5,000 and Mom gets \$5,000, just in case the question ever comes up. Jean said she wasn't marrying me for my insurance and I believe her, so I didn't give her all of it. Of course, I'll never give you occasion to collect the insurance, so there's really no need of worrying about it.

Hope Ed is happier with his Army and will forget about marriage until after the war and he has a good job. Of

course, he may say the same of me, only I know that I can have a pretty good job after this mess is over. That's something these other officers are worrying about, what will they do after the "duration and six months" is over? None of them seem to know, but practically all are still fairly young, so aren't worrying too much about it. One thing about this Air Corps, all (practically) of the officers are quite young, and those who are older are either in regular army or else well established in civilian life. But I guess most of the whole Army is that way.

The enlisted men will have a much greater problem than the officers.

So far as I am concerned the war is going along very nicely. Of course, I'm not a hero, but I don't have any special hankering to be one now. What I'm mainly interested in, as everyone else, is in getting this scrap over and getting back to the U. S. A. and my "old lady" and my family. You may have my share of England, - but you don't want it. I don't care much for England nor the English people, particularly some

I have met, yet I must feel a deep respect for what these people have gone through and what all they have done without. You really can't realize just how much the war has effected their normal lives, until you see it. I only hope Americans need never know the same things, and yet I think in a way it would do them good to live an Englishman's life for a few days.

well, tell everyone hello and that letters are welcome, - V-mail doesn't take long to write. My love to Grandma and all. Hi, Johnnie, I need a kiss. Love,  
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