

April 14, 1945.  
Marianas

Dearest Mother and Dad -

Well, just got back from Tokyo - it was really a big mission - one #10. This was another night "blitz" mission. We took off with the heaviest bomb loads ever carried by '29s and therefore the planes were very heavy. The mission went along very well. The weather was perfect for a change. However, Tokyo is starting to get wise. I never saw so many searchlights, fighters and flak. However, we were very fortunate - none of them picked on us. Right over the target there was this tremendous heat thermal (coming up from the Tokyo Arsenal area that was on target). This thermal rose to 22,000 ft, and just billowed. We had to fly through part of it to get to our target - and it took all our strength to keep the airplane right side up. Those are a million times worse than any thunderhead. Anyway Tokyo was really burning, I believe that more damage will come out of this fire-raid than upon the one we burned out 18 sq. miles on. However, will have to wait for the results. Photo slips went up today to take pictures and there was so much smoke and fire that they couldn't take any. It was a very gratifying raid. It scares the pants off of you to go in as low over the thickest (what was the third) largest city in the world.

Tell Russ for me a very happy birthday. I couldn't send him anything for it, so instead we sent Hirohito a hell of a big lot of incense for ~~Russ~~ Russ' birthday.

However, when we took off with that terrific load - it was Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. How do

you like that?

Thanks ever so much for your letters they are really swell, and informative. Nice long ones too. It's so hard to ~~write~~ write here - as we are either sleeping or flying. You see we practise a lot in between combat missions - that is, if there is any in between, Ten missions in a month and a half is keeping pretty busy, that's 150 combat hours in 45 days - not including practise missions. God, knows how many more we have to go - they claim 30-35 missions before we go home. Everyone is agreed that is too many, after all they are all over 3,000 miles long.

I remember Holbert pretty well. He used to be a pretty nice fellow. How the hell he got to be a Lt. Col in such a hurry I'll never know. Probably pretty good at skinning shoes. I got the air medal, but there is only one copy for my files over here; so someday I might get around to copying it, but nothing extraordinary. They hand those out in the mess hall. It is sort of funny, I got the D.F.C. before I got the Air medal - which you get for flying 5 missions.

It's too bad about Roosevelt. In spite of previous feelings - he alone knew what was going on. That's the trouble with one man government.

Nothing new. All my love to all of you - and let me know when the baby comes. The rumor is we may go to Hawaii for a 10 day rest someday - God knows when. However, Hawaii is only military and you would go to an established rest camp. All my love again.

As I know it "Mom + Dad"? I'll be seeing you P.T.