

RPF to Parents - February 23, 1945

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Marianas

Dearest Mom and Dad -

I've gotten quite a few of your letters, and they are marvelous. However, I wouldn't worry too much about sending magazines (other than subscriptions) because we have a pretty good library and also the squadron gets pretty recent literature. Our news is up to the minute, as it comes directly from the states over the radio; so we are pretty well informed.

We are living in tents still. The nights are beautiful with a big moon coming up again. However, I don't think we'll have to worry about air raids from now on in. I wrote Catie and told her that our invasion fleet (for Iwo Jima) laid off of here for a few days. It was a mighty sight (over 800 ships as announced by the radio) and flying over them was an impressive ceremony. They practised landing on our beaches, and God knows how Iwo Jima has held out so long, I'd hate to have them be the enemy.

The other day I went on a bombing mission (my first) to Tokyo. Also we went on search missions prior to the carrier-based raids on Tokyo almost to the Empire searching for enemy shipping. For that little deal our ~~Ships~~ got a commendation from Admiral Hootch. So you can see we are really starting to work. All I can discuss is past operations, naturally I can't tell you

about future operations.

With that hairy out there it makes you wonder why we have to wait for the European war to get over to start out here. Lord, we have so many men and so much equipment out here they don't know where they would put them all. However, I guess we could use the doughboys. We are in the last phase of this war, the last great push - Lord knows how long it will take though. I just hope the people at home don't get too optimistic though. That hairy, which was only a very small part of it, really shows you the might and production of America - it makes you proud to be part of the team.

I am still well and fine, and so is the crew. Please don't ~~so~~ make any of my letters and send them to the crew's family - they all hear from them, and I really don't like it - "hah you!" I don't mind if its kept in the family, but outside of that I don't like it.

I'm sorry I haven't written too much - its hard enough to find time to write Celia, and I'm hoping she will keep you informed mostly. Thanks for all your letters, cartoons, and radiograms. I'm surprised you haven't surmised where I am, but really I couldn't tell you. Regulations!!