

October 31, 1943

Dear Mother,

I probably won't have too much time to write to you tomorrow so I am starting the letter tonight while I do have a little bit of time even though it was seven o'clock before I got back from work on the plane.

This morning a pilot put the brakes on just after he landed and burned through 9 plies of one tire. We saw him land and knew then that we had to change a tire. [illegible deletion]

Was Tommy still a third class aviation Radio man are [sic] has he made second class by now? Have you heard anything from Jackie since he was home?

[page 2] This morning I found out a little bit of good news. I have flight orders for the month of November so on the 5 of December I will draw flight pay. Having flight orders does not mean that I have regular [sic] scheduled flights but just that get flight pay if I put my time in.

By now Betty should have received a letter from Mary Ann Harper. If she has tell me what she said.

How are Aunt John and Grover? Is Daddy getting along OK with the ~~factory~~ janitors job by now? Are you still working in the Drug store? That was too bad about Aunt Annie loosing [sic] her spare tire. How are her, Granpa, and Uncle Red? Will finish tomorrow

[page 3] You said that Tommy was making \$166 a month. Maybe is is [sic] first class now and getting flight pay. Or second class an [sic] getting flight pay and sea pay.

Today I received three letters from you, one from Uncle John and one from Frances Somerville. I also received a nice big cake from Aunt Nettie.

I'll bet that Bob Dolan had a lot of fun even though it was hard to shoot down the zero. I would give a month's pay to just get to shoot at one.

I have been studying pretty hard lately, trying to get my assignments in before the 21st of November. As for the recommendation [page 4] that will be from someone here. My plane captian [sic] will put it in for me.

Our crew of six men now is not a full crew for combat but I have been up when we only had a pilot, our plane captian [sic] acted a copilot and the first [illegible] as plane captian [sic] and I was in the after station. We didn't even have a radioman. I know how to operate the radio. It takes over 9 planes to make a squadron.

I will try to find out how far it is to where James Seeah is. I will also write to Jackie if I have time tonight which is my duty night.

Tomorrow is my day off and I'm going to Virginia Beach.

I'm glad that Betty made good grades last six weeks.

Your son,  
Tom D