

ADDRESS REPLY TO

AND REFER TO

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



24 June, 1945

Dear Kay + Frank,

I'll say it is a hell of a long time between letters - afraid I never would make much of a reporter Kay. After writing home and then Doris each week I find my journalistic leanings, more often than not, quite satisfied. This naturally is a lackadaisical attitude and during the past months I have tried to reply to all letters cluttering my desk since leaving your very pleasant apt. In addition I cannot bat out a letter in a few minutes on office time like the British are so prone to do. No sarcasm intended. I ~~like~~ succeeded quite well until about three weeks ago, when the Pacific Fleet Command started bombarding the Bureau with the damndest requests and well nigh impossible date lines. It takes very little discernment, reading between the lines of the daily newspaper accounts of late, to realize that all hell is popping in the Pacific. This is the third week including Sundays that I have worked without even an afternoon off. At the moment I am taking a little

breather after returning from lunch, to <sup>2</sup>  
write you folks, while awaiting several  
test reports from N.R.L.

Just returned from Philly and nearby  
Johnsville and Willow Grove where I  
spent six days working night & day on  
an Army B-17-G. This program, called  
Cadillac II, is the hottest thing in either  
service right now and completely out  
of the realm of even the highest priority.  
My ~~but~~ it's wonderful to work under  
these conditions. Just ask for something  
or indicate that so & so should be done  
and it is accomplished with despatch -  
no red tape - delays - priority or haggling.  
Naturally the Navy has to rebuild the  
B-17-G's for their astounding task but  
of all the big airplanes, including the  
B-29's, these B-17's are as slick as any-  
thing I have seen. If only they had  
bigger or more modern engines our  
problems would be easier.

Heavens Frank nothing like Soering -  
but I know and appreciate your griping  
about the good old Navy system that passes  
the buck & the work to a level where the  
brains, guts and conscience really lies.  
There are exceptions but until you get  
to sea they will not be very pronounced  
perhaps.

Re. Commissioning Frank, on or about 23 July, I and I imagine Doris, if she ever comes back from S.F. boom baggle, would be delighted to attend, if for no other reason than to see you both once again. I have been aboard several carriers over at Annapolis since I last saw you folks but have not been near a cruiser since my green-as-grass days at Fort Schuyler & Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Our office is also gradually filling up with full lieutenants returning from months and years of carrier duty. Their stories are exceedingly interesting as well as tragic. I would not worry too much about the organization & teamwork succeeding Frank - it usually will from what I can learn and surmise. During minor difficulties of course - under the most adverse even the best teamwork or fleet movements are all snafu and it is only by luck or by gosh that the majority pull through - or so it seems to the individual observer. All that can ~~be~~ practically be done shall be damn sure - wait until the shake down cruise is over. As for the biased, prejudiced and strictly nationalistic views of your fellow officers how does active duty change basic thought processes that have <sup>been</sup> channeled and weaned on sectionalism

for so long? Just listening to 90% of the <sup>4.</sup>  
Officers I meet, talk about world affairs  
also makes me sick and pessimistic. For  
the most, however, these things never even  
enter their heads. What do you folks think  
of the Charter? I am exceedingly disheartened,  
not that I expected any great change over  
Dumbarton Oaks & Yalta. There has been  
none despite all the verbiage to the con-  
trary. As long as the veto, regional posts,  
thousands of words, interpretations of  
interpretations, <sup>etc</sup> are necessary I feel it was  
a waste of time. Just as much could  
have been accomplished through ordinary  
diplomatic channels as will ever be  
accomplished under the Charter when the  
same basic assumptions apply. Have  
either of you read "The Anatomy of Peace"  
by Emory Reves, there is a good review in  
N. Y. Times Books Sect.; or E. B. White in  
the New Yorker.

I believe it is a meager start, hamstrung  
by a lot of restrictions, and it should  
be ratified for want of anything better. As  
a security organization I can hardly see  
anything collective about it. Its success  
is entirely dependent on the unanimity &  
good faith of the Big 5 or 3, and although  
I look for no war with Russia even in the  
distant future, this is questionable. We  
certainly could use a little good faith and  
unity in Europe at the moment.

I consider myself a realist, pessimist to Doris, because, although subscribing to the highest ideals I do not believe that we are ready for anything else, <sup>but what we got at S.F.</sup> <sub>S.F.</sub> bears this out conclusively. Doris refuses to argue ideals with me, at least by mail, and I believe that she will be beating the drums and joining all the fanfare applicable to the new Charter. I hope to God that it works. Enough of this for my time is running short.

Mary, Vinny and I have had dinner together on several occasions and as soon as the press of my present work is over I hope to see them again. They are not to favorably impressed with Washington.

Hope you both are in the best of health and are enjoying exclusive Newport. How is the weather? Here it has been cool and delightful with the exception of several days at the first part of last week. This cannot last however as you well know. As I have explained to Sherry the weatherman is maliciously awaiting her return. So many things are happening these days it is hard to predict the future - my stay in Wash may be about over and again it is probable that I will remain forever.

Both of you take care of yourselves, don't work too hard and let us hear from you once in awhile. Remember Kay you are a newspaper woman now.  
 Best of Everything, Bill

