



THE AVON PARK BOMBING RANGE
AVON PARK, FLORIDA

Thursday
8-29-44

Dear Mrs. Replan Hall

I received your letter and was awfully glad to hear from you. I was away on a furlough and never got your letter till I came back down here yesterday. I can well understand your feeling over "Bud" getting killed. We were together so much, he seemed like a brother to me. I will try to explain the best I can about the accident:

We took off that Sunday afternoon on one of our regular foraging missions about 1:30 P.M. We had been flying at high altitude about 23,000 ft for about 4 hours. "Bud" was sitting in the Radio Room with me and one of the other boys. About 5:30 we got caught in a storm and things happened so quick nobody had a chance to do anything. The plane through all of us down on the floor as it was groffling over & over. None of us had our parachutes on. I don't ever said a word

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I did get my parachute on first
as the plane broke half in to. So
I fell out just a few seconds before
it hit the ground a just by the
hand of God I was saved. After I
found out that I wasn't hurt very
bad I started looking for the rest
of the boys. I found them and saw
there was not anything I could do for
them. They were all killed instantly.
It happened way back in a swamp away
from anybody. I was bruised up
quite a bit myself and about crazy
after I seen all my Bugles gone.
It wasn't long though before I got
word word out and they went straight
out to get them. They took me to
the hospital in Tallahassee and I
stayed there for 3 days. When I
came back to Avon park they gave me
a 15 day furlough to rest up awhile.
Don't think I will ever get over it.
I'm still nervous. I don't plan to
fly anymore. It just wouldn't seem
right to fly with any other crew.
I was the Radio operator on this crew.
Every body got along so good. We
had the best crew down here I'm
sure. We had a good pilot to. He
tried his best but couldn't get



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it through. after all is done I
feel that it was good that it happened
in this country so the bodies could
be found. I had a brother killed
over seas about a year ago and they
had to bury him over there. I know
how it is when you know they are
never coming back. Even if Bud
was killed on this side you fear
most assured that he was doing
his part to win.

I went to see "Mitch" today about
that ring. I didn't find out as
much about it as I would like
to. He said that the ring hadn't
been paid for in full. I think they
are trying to get the money back.
You write me and let me know
if his girl friend or anybody
wants to finish paying for it
are what you want to do. I'll
see that anything you want done
about it is taken care of.
I better close now. If there is anything
I can do for any of you don't fail
to write.

to let you know.

Sincerely yours,
Maudie

~~11/11/11~~