

Dear Yussuf---

Now listen boy I'm not kidding this time--this is the last time I am ever going to write to you till I hear from you, and it had better be soon. This is the third letter I have written since I have heard from you which was way before Christmas. I think it is a dirty shame. I didn't even get a thank-you, go-to-hell, or what-have-you, the last time I wrote, which was the one with the small check enclosed. I don't give a damn about the cash, but I sure would like to be sure you got it, and used it, and to know whether you are still alive, kicking, and etc. Now come on, there isn't anything in the world so damn important that you don't have time to write at least once in five months. My gosh we ought to keep up a correspondence of not less than once every two weeks which I ~~think~~ don't think would strain you too much. I don't even know where you are--I've been looking in the paper to see if maybe they didn't have a letter from you or something, but no go--you don't even write to them. Then I kept thinking--well maybe he is being moved around a lot and is just waiting till he gets settled so he can give me a fairly permanent address, but no go on that either. What the hell is wrong, anyway? Even after my crash every one in Russell (including Arvin) wrote except you, and I thought sure you would write, but again no go. It isn't very encouraging, but if you have an alibi, I will listen reverently to it, and then decide.

I am now at home on a between stations furlough, and am working the store for Dad while here, while he is taking his vacation. I finished at Abilene about a week and a half ago, and am now waiting to be sent either to Georgia or California. I'll take Calif. Ga. in the summer doesn't sound like too much to me. Of course I go where they say, but I can dream can't I? I'll brag a little now--I finished second in my class in ground school and first in flying--second highest flying grade turned out of there since the Navy school was started there last summer. I guess they didn't count off very damn much for my crash. I am all cured from the crash now except the ankle, and it will be two to three months yet before it is well if it gets completely well. I am going to go to pre-flight and try it--if I can't I will probably have to lay out for a while, which I don't want, so I will have to really get it into as good shape as I can. I have a scar on my forehead, right above and between the eyebrows--looks like a light colored birthmark, and were not sure whether it will go away or not, but it doesn't mar my exquisite looks much anyway, so I don't give a damn, if the ankle will only loosen up.

The baby is really a humdinger, and the cutest one I ever saw--and I'M not prejudiced too much either. I care for him every once in a while, and am I a diaper changing fool now.

How is all your family? Is Kenny in? Stew reported for his physical today--leaves with June quota. Gene is football star here, and pres. of the student body.

The folks are both in tip top shape--Mom taking care of Sis and the baby and the house and the church and us kids and the dog and several other things--she sleeps soundly every night between 3 and 5, if one of the kids doesn't wake her when they're dragging in from some dance or work or such. Dad has the best victory garden in town---concrete irrigation ditches and terraced ground and etc. and is he ever proud of it? Sis is getting better all the time and will soon be just as spry as ever. Pie is a Tech Sargent now you know and going to OCS either this month or next.

Well give my very best to your family and anyone as deserving, if there are any such creatures.

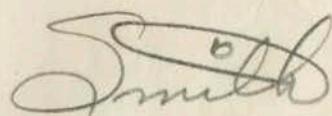
WRITE!!!!

a/c Francis B. ~~xxxx~~ Smith, U.S.N.R.

509 Gregg Big Spring, Texas

will always get me.

As ever



a/c Francis B. Smith, U.S.A.
509 Gregg Big Spring, Texas

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Robert J. Dole

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Please Forward!

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