

LEE

5

June 11, 1946

My dear Colonel Lee:

I have received the notification of my appointment as honorary Lieutenant of Lee's Lieutenants, and I deeply appreciate the honor you have extended me.

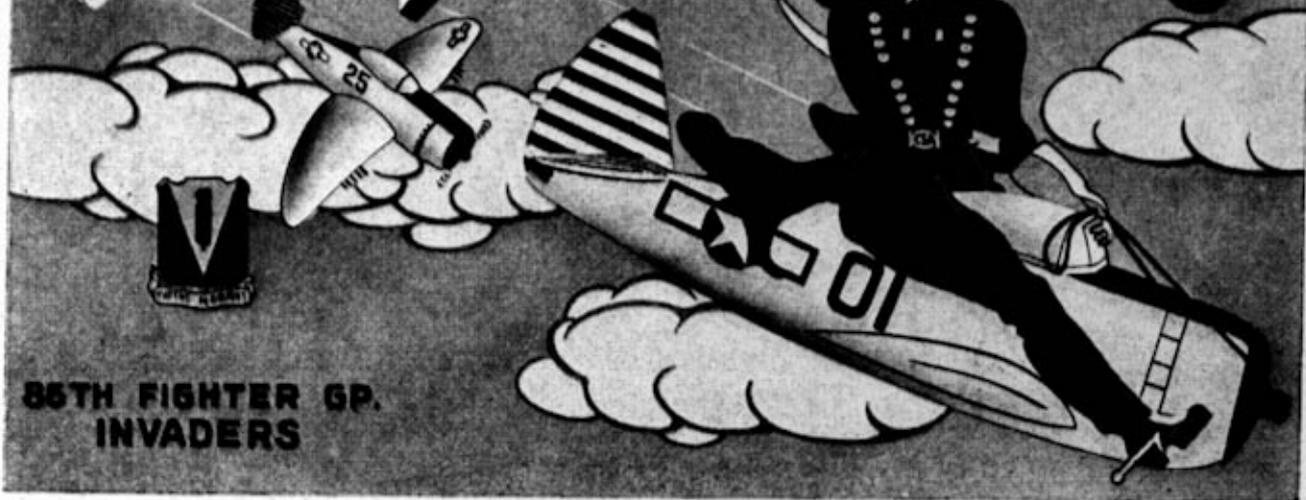
I hope very much that when your outfit comes home that any one who can come to see me will do so.

Many thanks and good wishes to you all.

Very sincerely yours,

Lt. Col. George T. Lee
Headquarters 88th Fighter Group AAF
APO 374
c/o Postmaster
NYC

LEE'S "LIEUTENANTS"



85TH FIGHTER GP.
INVADERS

HEADQUARTERS 86th FIGHTER GROUP
European Theater of Operations
APO 374

Lee's Lieutenants, officially the 86th Fighter Group, is an attack force of outstanding P-47 Thunderbolt pilots supported by a well-knit ground echelon. Commanding officer is Lt. Col. George T. Lee of Norwood, Mass., the ETO record holder of 258 combat missions.

This aggressive fighter-bomber group flew its last mission on the morning of V-E Day, ending more than two years' service in the Mediterranean and European theaters. It has flown under the 12th Air Force, the 1st Tactical Air Force, and is now based at Gross Gerau, Germany, under the 9th Air Force pending re-deployment.

During their two years of dodging in and out of flak alleys Lee's Lieutenants have become specialists at dive-bombing and strafing enemy targets, their attacks meshing like gear teeth with Allied ground forces below. They've flown 3625 missions comprised of 28550 sorties. Their record of destruction and damage includes 1114 locomotives, 10,420 railcars, 515 enemy planes, and 9960 motor transports plus an overflowing bag of enemy bridges, ammunition dumps, barges, rail centers and similar strong points.

Sixty-one of Lee's Lieutenants lost their lives attacking enemy targets and 61 are missing in action. During combat, the enemy destroyed 200 planes and damaged 800; practically all these losses were from flak.

On a single day during the Rome-Arno campaign, Lee's Lieutenants destroyed or damaged 462 enemy vehicles, inflicted a great many casualties, silenced gun positions, and interdicted several highways used by the Germans. For this outstanding performance the War Department commended the entire group with an official citation.

Lee's Lieutenants are now recommended for two additional War Department citations. One is for their low-level fire bombing during the Allied attack in Italy which captured the key positions on Monte Belmonte and Monte Grande in October, 1944. Before these assaults, they pioneered, then rehearsed the best techniques for low-level fire bombing, a dangerous feat but devastating to enemy materiel and morale.

The second recommended citation is for the group's dawn to dusk operations during the 7th Army offensive in southern Germany. In one day -- April 20 of this year -- Lee's Lieutenants destroyed or damaged 91 planes, 181 motor transports, 36 railcars, 28 buildings, and rounded out a perfect day by exploding an ammunition dump.

The original complement of officers and enlisted men are now authorized seven battle stars. Despite their lengthy combat duty, a recent poll indicated an overwhelming majority of the officers and enlisted men prefer to rest or retrain in the states and then join the attack against Japan, rather than become part of Europe's occupational force.

Upon the recommendation of George T. Lee, Lt. Col. George T. Lee, commanding officer, is pleased to commission you with the rank of honorary lieutenant in Lee's Lieutenants. All air and ground personnel extend to you their most cordial welcome.

With Col. Lee & crew I deeply appreciate the honor they have extended to me when they came to me. I am sure you will be a great help to me.



Eighty-Sixth Fighter Group

Gross Gerau, Germany

Greetings:

This is to certify that

Eleanor Roosevelt

having shown the qualities of aggressive leadership, determination for a complete victory, and an exemplary spirit of cooperation with the Army Air Forces, is hereby appointed
an honorary Lieutenant of Lee's Lieutenants,
86th Fighter Group.

Official:

Percy C. Fauskin
Percy C. Fauskin
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

George T. Lee
George T. Lee
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Commanding

Thank you very much
for your letter & the
kind things you say
about my husband. I
agree with you that
Perkins' book is very
good.

If he needs you
can write to Public
Relations Dept. 100
nyc & ask for
the material you are
interested in.



PLATE BLOCKS

ORVILLE A. LEE
 1440 N. BELLEVIEW PLACE
 INDIANAPOLIS 22, INDIANA

LEE, O.
 FIRST DAY COVERS

S. P. A. NO. 14844

INDIANA STAMP CLUB

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 United Nations Delegation

Dear Madam,

People are so prone to save their flowers for funerals! I feel urged to write to you because I have read the book written by Frances Perkins, titled As I Knew Him. It was a delightful book. I have always said that Roosevelt would be considered among our greatest three Presidents, but now I am inclined to place him first. I believe that history will do so. President Lincoln was not nearly so loved as Franklin D., nor did he have the unique opportunities for social reconstruction that your husband enjoyed (or should I say travailed). Washington was truly a gentleman of appropriate dignity and wisdom, and his service to our country was momentous; but he did not enjoy the confidence of such a great segment of our population. Perhaps the trials of our country in the two periods, 1789-97 and 1933-45, were equally severe and unpredictable; but where Washington was trusted, F.D.R. was loved.

Frances Perkins has indeed performed a service for our countrymen in drawing this written picture of our President and in defining the New Deal, as such. So much has been written of a confusing and emotional nature on this subject, one was never sure how much was true and what motivated the "program" in its various parts.

I was particularly impressed with her tribute to the work you did while First Lady. Again, I had repeatedly defended your activities and interests, although not knowing quite how significant they were to the President. I think that we citizens, en masse, owe you a personal "thank you" for the service you gave "above and beyond the usual line of duty." As the author said, you expected a quiet tenure as First Lady, but this was not to be. I know that you were just being yourself; you were genuinely interested in what you did. Otherwise, you might have had less courage in the face of the diatribe you endured.

This letter may sound a bit trivial and perhaps unnecessary. But after reading about our President and the inside story of those crucial days, I feel somehow more appreciative of the role you both played in our history. And I feel that even a small word of appreciation from one of the millions who believed in you and supported you will give you pleasure for a moment in your still busy life.

If you find the time, you might have your secretary tell me how I might best keep in touch with United Nations news. This agency is getting a lot of bad feeling from the segment of our population which doesn't know what is going on. I received a letter yesterday from a stamp customer who gave vent to his irritation at "Uncle Sap's" support of the United Nations organization. He implied that we were paying the whole bill and that no good would come of it. As for myself, I believe in it, but I am no better informed (except for hot international news that the newspapers headline) about its activities than I was about the so-called New Deal. I feel now (especially after reading Leland Stowe's Target You) that lack of information is next to treason. Half-baked opposition is actually encouraged by half-baked approval; knowing the truth will keep us free and virile as a nation. Any help on this idea will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Orville A. Lee