

Student M.A. Goldstein (R.A.F.)  
British Flight Battalion  
Naval Air Station  
Pensacola  
Florida  
USA  
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Dear Cousins,

I have delayed answering your letter as I hoped to include a snap of myself, but as one is not ready yet I will include it in my next letter.

As we have a day's holiday, and I have bought my homework & notes up to date I have time to write to you, after finishing my letters to England – to the family & my fiancée, who, by the way, is a Red Cross nurse of 2 years standing.

My sister Becky did not know I was coming here until I was embarking, and even then it was not certain whether it would be Canada or U.S.A. I was only sure it was Pensacola when I arrived at Toronto, as they (the authorities) keep movements secret.

I have just started to receive Air Mail letters from home, and nights seem fairly quiet there as Germany is fully occupied with Russia now. This is a great relief, and enables people to sleep in peace & recuperate from broken nights & long vigils.

It seems strange sometimes to think that there is still a great war on in Europe, as it is so quiet and peaceful here and abundance of food, clothing & all other goods. We live very well at this station and though not all of us will become officers in the R.A.F., we are treated just as your cadets are when under training.

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So for now I have done fairly well, passing the Celestial Navigation with 98%, & also Computer Instruments. In Radio Code I passed 10 words a minute test, and in a week or so will qualify as Radio Operator at 12, I think I passed O.K. in Photography & on Signal Lamp.

Now we are studying Aerology (Meteorology) & I have a good average in the tests so far. This week we are starting Reconnaissance work & Communications Procedure. In 3 or 4 month's time we should finish these ground school subjects and start actual flying and put theory into practice. I think I shall specialise in flying boats, PBY's, and join the Coastal Command in England.

We should be here some 3 months more, and there are rumours that we may finish training at Norfolk (or even Boston), but I will let you know definitely as soon as possible.

I see that you are doing good work, cousin Rose, and I am pleased you are helping England, & the men in the Services. They need encouragement for it is hard to be separated from family & home. Although I am happy enough here I often feel a bit homesick, and so do the other men.

We still have plenty of homework, but go swimming every day on the fine beach here, and I am fit and tanned. The weather is still hot and uncomfortable but has broken up the last day or two and it will soon be bearable. With best regards to you all, & hoping to write again soon,

Your affectionate cousin Archie