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PENSACOLA
Florida USA
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Dear Cousins,

I received your photographs this week and thank you very much. You, (Cousin Rose) have the family face and I can see the resemblance to my mother & Aunt quite clearly. The portrait of you (cousin Doris) is very charming, & I never knew I had such a nice young cousin. All the other men are chipping me in my room, as we know each other very well, and try to kid me I will break off my engagement (Heaven forbid!)

I also had a fine, cheerful letter from home. They have had no air raids for two months and food is more plentiful, coming from Canada & U.S.A. & lots of fruit & vegetables are grown in England now, both in the country & in people's own gardens & allotments.

I don't know if you have heard of my cousin Micky (Michael Malins), whose widowed mother, Ada, is my father's youngest sister. Well, he is now training for a pilot in the R.A.F. and may come here too. If so I would like to see him. He is only 21.

Also a second cousin of ours, Renee, younger daughter of my father's niece (Fanny or Faga Goldstein) – the religious one; who married a German teacher and moved to Bagdad (Iran), now has a baby son. She was evacuated to Bombay (India) when the War spread to the East, and her baby was born there, although her husband was not allowed to go with her. I think he is now with her as he was receiving help from prominent people to join his wife. Her brother Freddy is in the Army & he has been to Baghdad & met her & wasn't that a coincidence.

I have had a letter from my brother

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Tully & his wife. He is busy on Government work, & is studying Television, besides being a member of the Home Guard, which is being trained to defend the country against possible invasion, though that danger is past now; and it is England's turn to attack the Continent.

I have been flying now for nearly 2 weeks, for over 50 hours, and have passed the test as a Navigator, covering about 300 miles out in the Gulf, out of sight of land, & making for a small harbour – reaching it at the estimated time, and within a mile or two. Next week we shall have gunnery training from the 'plane, firing on surface targets, & some in the air.

We are using the PBY flying boats which are for sea patrol, and have a busy time on board doing everything except acting as pilot. We spend 6 or 7 hours on each flight, and are quite tired at the end. We fly at 1000 to 8000 feet at 110 to 130 miles per hour, but do no stunts, as we have 12 or 14 men aboard, & are not strapped in and instruments are not fixed. I am quite used to flying, and feel at home in the air.

The latest information is that we shall leave here on November 1st, i.e. within the next fortnight, but our destination is uncertain, though most probably it will be Norfolk (Virginia). I hope so, as then I might be able to see you, & visit some of the big towns. It would be a pity to come all this way from England, & not see more of the country.

Best regards & thanks again for the photographs

Your cousin Archie.