

Lt. R.M. Welty O-715894  
46603 - 398th Bomb Gr.  
AFB 567

1/3 Postmaster, N.Y.



Nov. 29, 1944

To: Mrs. A. K. Kelly  
1498 Belle Ave.

Lakewood, Ohio  
U. S. A.

VIA AIR MAIL

Lt. R.M. Welty - O-715894

Dear Folks:

Nov. 29, 1944

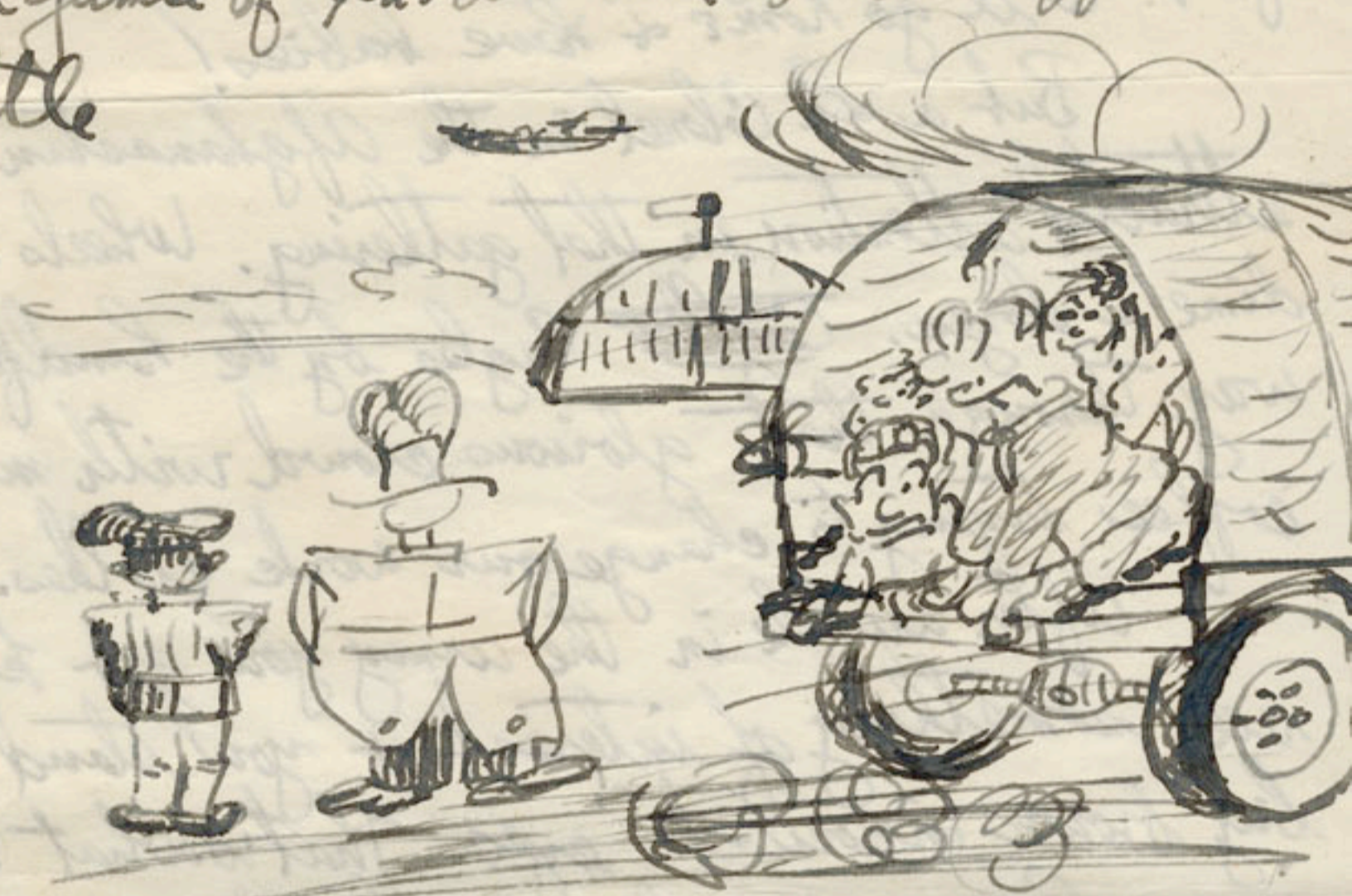
I just remembered what I wanted to tell you last nite -

Today the poor old 398<sup>th</sup> was honored by a visit by several Congressmen ~~was~~ escorted by our boss, Jimmy Doolittle. The celebrity of the day was Clare Booth Luce - a congress woman! Or maybe I have that backwards - Clare Luce Booth - one or the other.

I wasn't present to entertain the guests, being otherwise occupied. However, I did ~~see~~ catch a glimpse of Gen. Doolittle & was surprised to see that he's a little short guy, not 12 feet tall, as I always imagined anyone who would raid Tokyo in a B-25 must be.

~~He was~~ we saw him from the window of our limousine as we returned from work. Couldn't see much because a big senator from Ga. or Pa. or somewhere was standing in the way. But, honestly, I have a lot of respect for old Jimmy Doolittle & wonder how, after a life of hi-powered adventure, he likes such a prosaic desk job as running the 8<sup>th</sup> air force!

I also saw Clare Luce, or Booth. She didn't impress me as much as I thought. The rumor on the post last nite had it that she was the most beautiful woman



OUR CREW CATCHING A GLIMPSE OF OUR PRIVATE HERO, JIMMY DOOLITTLE!

MADEIRA  
OHIO  
JAN 13 1945

in congress. That may be, but what did impress me was the Lt. Colonel WAC who was with her. I had seen a couple of captain WACS & a few lieutenant WACS, & a bunch of sergeant <sup>ea<sup>3</sup></sup> WACS & a whole gang of corporal & priv. WACS. But no major WACS, let alone Lt. Colonel WACS. I'd never thought of that before & it startled me for a moment—knew this would happen if we gave 'em the vote! When we go to work some morning & the **Colonel** says, "Wing commander on today's flight will be Lt. Colonel Helen Jones," I'll quit. I'll go home & have babies!

But a Lt. Colonel in the Afghanistan army wouldn't have attracted attention in that gathering. Wheels—big wheels. Stars—a dime a dozen. ~~Eagles~~ Eagles by the handful. We'd push our way through that glorious crowd with mugs of steaming black coffee trying to change our work clothes.

After awhile in the army you get kind of hickish. You see something of interest & you stand & gawk at it with big brown innocent eyes. That's what happened to the congressmen. Being in civilian clothes they were outstandingly of interest. We stood around & gawked at them.

I understand that someone took C.B. Luce, or C.H. Booth up in a B-17 for a ride. I guess the pilot told her a bunch of lies about the B-17, but that's just part of the global balony!

Love, Bob—



\* \* \*

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
BOMBER STATION, ENGL-  
LAND—The promotion of Rob-  
ert M. Welty, son of Mr. and  
Mrs. Harrison W. Welty, 1498  
Belle Ave., from the rank of  
second lieutenant to first lieu-  
tenant was announced recently  
by the commanding officer of  
the 398th heavy bombardment  
group.

Lt. Welty is a co-pilot of a  
B-17 Flying Fortress. He is a  
graduate of Lakewood high  
school. He also attended Woos-  
ter college.

\* \* \*