

Columbia University
College of Physicians and Surgeons

DE LAMAR INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
600 WEST 168TH STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 14, 1943

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personal*

✓ Dog

General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Commander-in-Chief
Allied Force Headquarters
North African Area
c/o Postmaster
New York City



Dear Sir:

This acknowledges your letter of June 2 regarding our son, Richard Ives East, and his dog, Duckworth. We deeply appreciate the impulse that caused you to give consideration to the events so tragic to us but of relatively minor importance among the pressing problems and heavy responsibilities of your office. Dick's mother and I want you to know that we agree that your decision to keep Duckworth with our son's friend, Lt. Harold Taff, was proper. One reason we asked for Duckworth was that we believed Lt. Taff and Dick had been separated and were attached to different organizations. We were lead to believe this because, when Dick was assigned to the 52nd Group of the 4th Fighter Squadron, he wrote, "It broke my old outfit's heart when I took my dog with me." We had followed the dog's place in our son's life since he wrote on September 23, 1942, "Oh yes. I bought my dog Sunday night. Will send his picture at my first opportunity. His name is John Stuart Duckworth, II -- after former room and tent mate, etc." Every letter we received from him had some reference to the dog. The last letter we received from Dick, written April 1, three days before his final mission, contained this as a post script, "Duckworth is OK".

If it is not asking too much, we would deeply appreciate the following: In the event that circumstances occur which make it necessary for Duckworth and Lt. Taff to be separated, Duckworth be sent to us. Of course, it is understood that this be done only if it does not in any way interfere with the war effort. Because you are a dog lover, we want you to know that, should Duckworth ever be granted us, he will have a rural home and not be confined to New York City.

East, Brian R., Jr

REPLY BY AIR MAIL