

WAR DEPARTMENT
AIR SERVICE
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF

July 26, 1924.

Dear Lester:

Thanks very much for your letter of July twenty fifth.

I will come to New York as soon as I can but I think I will have to have my tonsils out first and get "policed up" in general preparatory to the winter's work which is going to be hot and heavy.

Our air force, as such, has almost ceased to exist, tactically much more than technically, but both are bad enough. We are again down to the position of "the blind leading the blind". The only answer is an independant Air Service and to get away from the Army and Navy, as we have always known.

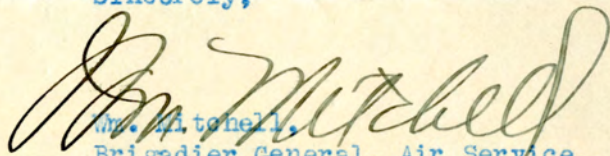
With the development of our methods, we can absolutely dominate sea areas practically anywhere. It is the only sure method of national defense that we have at the present time where we could dominate. Our people are not inclined to have an army of any size and really do not need one. All the Navy does is to follow behind that of England whereas if they went anywhere near Japan they never would come back: the Japanese air force would destroy them at once.

It is pretty near time for the American people to dig into these things and find out what it is all about.

I will let you know a day or two before I go to New York. I have never felt better in my life but I think I had better have this tonsil business attended to before I do anything else.

With best regards

Sincerely,



Mr. Mitchell,
Brigadier General, Air Service,
Assistant Chief of Air Service.

Mr. Lester Gardner,
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New York, N. Y.