

June 5 1945

Dear Ones,

I am writing this from the Depot Office so I do not have any of your letters with me. The weather today is just as it was a year ago when I came up here from New Caledonia - the sky is bluer than ever and the water reflects the same azure shades which are so striking to one who is used to the grey Atlantic. A day like today makes you forget the hours of pouring rain, the flying, swirling coral dust, the intense heat of less pleasant seasons.

I heard from Neil Clark yesterday and answered him. He is now at an AA^F rest camp in Hawaii; needless to say he is enjoying the pleasures of being in a civilized area and he is really resting. What I envy him most for is the opportunity to call the States by radio-telephone -- that is the only reason I would like to go to the Hawaiian Group if I get shipped out of here as a casual (though it is very unlikely that I would be sent that far to the rear on my way forward.) I imagine that after a while Neil will get reassigned to a forward area; he is assigned to Pacific Ocean Areas which as near as we can tell is not directly under MacArthur yet - when this place finally completes its last death throes, most of us will probably go direct to South West and Doug. This morning I went over to the AG (Adjutant General for you, Mother) and signed the form on the discharge plan - it gave me a chance to see my form 66-1 which is the officers' service record. All my ratings have been "Excellent" - Superior is the highest you can receive - and that includes a period under Thorpe, although apparently the rating was put down without the Personnel officer's consulting Thorpe. Hmm.

I have just been talking with a corporal whose parent organization is on Okinawa; He has been overseas for 30 months - he had been in the Army just nine days when he was shipped to Hawaii. He has been in one combat operation; he is now a man of 35, unmarried and with no children. Believe me his gripes are many: he can't get out, but men his age are not being drafted back home; parenthood is given credit on the point system, but not age; combat credit is harder to get in the Pacific than it was in the European theatre. He is sort of counting on the fact that the folks at home will raise a holler over the injustice of his plight, but he knows that the answer of "military necessity and requirements" will be the universal answer. His outfit has been overseas a long time, so he is not in as bad a spot as some of the others. His complaints ran the gamut - against the marines and their fighting methods, the Japs (whose doggedness he admires as a terrific factor to overcome,) the Navy ("lots of sailers haven't been at sea as long as some of our GI's when you add up the time they have spent sailing into combat.") The answer may be that in the Army the soldier is not happy unless he is griping - I don't know - it just bothers me to hear fellows reduce their arguments to terms of laughing at the ideas of equality and justice; I hope that there is no permanent distrust as a result. One thing will be an inevitable result and since it will be very vocal it will hurt: the Army will be extremely unpopular - Thorpe says it is making a Bolshevik out of him!! - and universal service will suffer. Maybe functioning democracy will be enhanced, though, by contrast.

I went to bed very early last night and feel better today; I enjoyed a very deep sleep. I plan to write to Bill Snower and to Juj sometime today - we will probably scrape up a volleyball game before supper; of course it gets dark very early now so we have to cut the sessions short. Did I tell you that Herb Shreiber had been transferred to New Caledonia - I don't know what he is doing down there but if he is doing anything it is more than they found for him to do up here; he probably wrote more letters than even I. Slowly but surely the old familiar faces are leaving and it won't be long before everything in the way of socializing becomes limited to our own growing smaller headquarters group.

OK for now - all my love,

Regards to Doris.

Samuel