

13 June 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night the mail came in and I received about eight letters from home and notes from Miss Pease, Hank, and Lois. I did not write to you this noon - I took a nap and relaxed for the hour or so. Things are pretty busy and the pace seems to be picking up; I keep struggling along!

The picture of you is swell, HB! I showed it to the fellows in the tent and now they are all planning to come to Maine after the war! Up to then my invitations had not done the trick. I am passing up going to see L. Turner in Keep Your Powder Dry this evening - last night I was dragged off to see the Great Flamarion and I should have stayed in bed! I would have gone to see the La Turner epic but it is on a 16mm film that is a little tough on the eyes. We may finish off the evening by playing poker, I'm not sure. Tonight the station is carrying the famous Command Performance of Dick Tracy which has received so much publicity - with Hope, Shore, Crosby, Durante, etc. I still have the Wedemeyer issue of TIME to read carefully, as well as the collection of clippings from these letters. I tried the crossword and got about half way through when I got stuck - they are fun but I lose interest when the words in both directions become things like "genus of Persian frogs" or "Indian system of weights" so that I can't make any headway in any direction. The PM puzzles are easier for me than the TIMES - the acrostics which the TIMES takes from the SatReview of Literature are good. Thanks also for the clippings of "Male Call" strips from Life - the drawings appear in our daily paper here and they always go over with a bang - sex always does!

I'll bet the Philbricks were happy to read the Craig column about Don. It is just that sort of writing that made Ernie Pyle so real in his columns - Mrs Craig does a good job no matter what she tackles. In the Dorothy Thompson column I note that everyone is perturbed over the lack of coordination in the handling of the Salzburg-Austrian government - it is being handled much like an army job, with changes of assignment and personnel every six seconds, apparently; it is going to take us time to get our control into working order - we do not have the political military teamwork system which so helps the Russians, but I think that Eisenhower will work it out with Clay and Murphy. I remember driving out to South Portland to visit with the Saywards but I can't recall when or how long ago it was; doesn't Dwight Sayward wear horned rimmed glasses? Wasn't that the time that Mary Ellen Chase's brother was there?

I started to think when I read your comment about Louis Black's meeting Mrs Goldman in San Francisco: I was young when I went into the service and that was a big advantage, it helped my entree because I was treated as a visiting nephew or something of the sort. It must be tougher on a grown man - it is OK to say your Mother is active in Council, but sounds a little different if you say your wife. All in all from Petersburg and Richmond right through to the weekend before embarkation in San Francisco I was wonderfully fortunate. I have my fingers crossed for Uncle Louis. Off hand I don't remember the Miss Cummings who operated the elevator at 119; I probably would if I were to see her. George (Bolitho) and Paul (Bauer) are officers of the 3475th Ordnance Company, to refresh your memory. George is now in the States on leave and Paul was in charge of the company when it left the island a while back. I am glad you ended the Press Herald subscription - if it is as of June 1st, I'll still be getting them in August anyway. The weather these past couple of days has been very humid and uncomfortable - headaches and general run-down feelings seem to be the rule; we were just getting ready for some cool weather when the wet spell hit. Hank wrote me of Rudy's and his plans and it sounds as though they are going to have a honeymoon of fits and starts - getting away for a few days only to have to return to Boston. (It is going to seem strange to address that envelope to Dr and Mrs Henry Banks when I write to them!)

I was glad to hear that you had spoken to Mrs Brown - Neil hasn't mentioned Bill in his past few letters so it was good to know that he is OK; he must be doing a good



job for Neil wrote that he made staff-sergeant very soon after the landings in France. Those boys are going to have a lot of stories to tell when they return. I guess the boys like Bill will be the ones who are shipped to this neck of the woods to continue the struggle; compared to the men of Divisions like the ones that Lou Raybin came out of. Bill's outfit is relatively new to combat. I hope for his sake that he gets a trip home on the way; didn't he leave Esther pregnant - or am I thinking of two other people?

From what you write it would seem that Portland is darned lucky to have Norman Godfrey around; I guess that he is the worker who carries the brunt of each and every community project because every group feels as though they own a part of him. I enjoyed your little story of Louise Lowm's staying in NY while her husband was training out of Boston; it rather jibes with my one and only impression of her - iceberg. I am skipping all the clippings and just running through your letters - that will explain somewhat the rambling style of this note. I am glad that you visited Aunt Shaine - I hope that for your next annual visit I can drive you up the Hill, Mother. As for Evelyn L and those pamphlets, I think I have already explained that they are available to me out here. I enjoyed her letter - she certainly writes openly to you; how old is Evelyn? I have only the very vaguest recollections of what she looks like. I wonder why in hell politics made her think of me?! (I see that she was properly broken in - she sent her regards to Doris!!) Mother, let me ask you something - and I know you will answer with you Thurnanic smile - did you have Uncle Lou and Evelyn linked in your mind??

When you write about getting a car from Lewie B, I begin to think that maybe my Ordnance experience will stand me in good stead and that I would be ready to give my esteemed cousin some real assistance. Ordnance controls all transportation and for a long while when this base was big and functioning I had charge of the issue of all vehicles - and of course a lot of the loans and spot issues were made on a personal and favor basis. Of course I was handling jeeps and not sedans. And then again - when the war is over the fewer reminders I have of Ordnance and depots and reports, the better I will like it. I can hardly wait for the next batch of Terry and the Pirates to come - still a fascinating comic strip! I am glad you had a pleasant weekend at Quinn's Daddy; I'll be looking for your letter on it. So Jerry Waxman still has the old flair for the stage, huh? Mother, it is "nest-ce pas"(or "ness pah") not n'ent pas!" That is about all of my French that I remember.

Miss Pease wrote me at some length - in fact I still haven't read the letter through - I was interrupted when we went out to play volley ball last evening. As you might well expect she writes very well and I stay on my toes when I answer her! Lois writes that she is going to spend her annual vacation in Florida - it beats me why she wants to go to Florida in the summer. Whenever I open one of her letters, I hope to see a change in its tone or content - she is a sweet kid and I hope that she finds the right guy one of these days. Ok for tonight - that just about covers all the odds and ends -

All my love,

Regards to Doris

