

July 24th 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night we saw "Pillow to Post" and it was very good, light entertainment; Olivia de Havilland might have been better for the lead than Ida Lupino but it was a pleasant hour and a half. I got to bed fairly early; things are quiet as hell - there aren't enough volleyball players left for a game, and the old lethargy and emptiness are beginning to come over the place. It takes a real effort to keep from letting every little thing be bothersome and annoying.

The coming battle on Federal Aid to improve educational facilities throughout the nation will undoubtedly have a great many repercussions. Until I came into the Army I had never come in contact with areas which did not have the same educational facilities which are offered to students in New England. Certainly economy at the cost of schools and teachers and books is a poor and false saving; there is no greater responsibility upon democratic government than educational facilities. At last I have some idea of what the Newspaper strike is ( I hope it will be "was" by the time you receive this ) about; Waldman explains that the Union wants certain vacation, overtime, and benefit conditions in the new contract. During the period of renegotiation nothing was accomplished and the matter passed from merely the discussions of the employees and employers to a strike and to the intervention of the WLB. At this point it seems to be that the Union is almost wholly in the wrong in refusing to obey the WLB orders; why the Union refuses to let the WLB arbitrate the matter is beyond me. What they hope to gain in the face of both the publishers and the WLB not to mention a public which must be a little put out by the lack of newspaper service is not clear.

Mrs Craig certainly manages to run into everybody from Portland she can find - maybe the Army publicity service is improving. I did not see the article but she mentions writing about A Captain Elliott whom she had met in Germany and who used to teach in Deering. Do you remember Linwood Elliott - when I was a Freshman he used to help Miss Williams with the debating work; my recollection is of a completely drab and uninteresting person; I think he went into the service with the National Guard while I was still in High School or shortly thereafter. I think he was a lieutenant then. Pascha Warren has a good looking son - where did he go to school? I see that they are still debating as to whether or not Hitler was killed; it will be one of those things that will probably never be incontrovertably proved one way or the other. I think I have heard at least six different stories already. The chance of finding a body that can be identified seems almost nil now.

Aunt Anne had written me about the Massachusetts chiropractors Bill - I certainly hope that Tobin vetoes it; it is a sad reflection on the Massachusetts legislature that such a bill was passed. I cannot understand why in all the talk of bombing Japan there is no emphasis placed on the role of B-17's and B-24's - certainly with a base like Okinawa available the Army plans to use the Libs and Fords to paste the Japanese home islands and the China coast. In Doolittle's first statement about the 8th air force in the Ryukus he mentioned only the Superforts. Perhaps the former heavies will be made into transports and cargo carriers - in any event there must be a big backlog of them in Europe and in the states that have many thousands of miles still left in them. And not all the jobs over Japan require the biggest planes or are worth the risk of that valuable equipment.

There has been no mail in for the past couple of days and I am looking for some either today or tomorrow. We can look for the day when mail here becomes even less regular than it is now - perhaps I should say more regular and less frequent: something like once every two weeks! I hope that I am gone from here before it ever comes to that - - there is no special dope on my current status; theoretically there is still a job to be done here and so I am still here until further notice. Of course you can never be sure and an order may come out tomorrow.

OK for now -

All mu love.

