

July 29th 1945

Dear Ones,

I have just written to Neil and to you, HB. Still out the depot - no generals have turned up yet. Perhaps you are right about the tone of De Wolfe's letter - I was more or less influenced by what you had written to me. It looks as though the CSB is one headache for you after another, Mother - how you manage to get into the middle in every situation beats me; in fact, I guess that it is a credit to your role in the community. I hope that you are successful in keeping Miss Bowen and Margaret on even keels - you can ill afford to lose Miss Bowen at this time. (One of the Winchell Columns you sent was very good, and I'll bet than better than half of the stories were in Cerf's "Try and Stop Me.")

It is now after lunch - the generals came and by this time have probably gone; they must be on a Cook's Tour of the islands - very pleasant to ride around in a nice big airplane, but I am inclined to wonder what they can accomplish in visits like this. A good letter or two would probably accomplish the same results. I am back out at the depot because things are quiet out here and because there is no place better to be. Just before I left the tent I heard the thrilling news of the Senate ratification of the San Francisco Charter. If Wilson and Roosevelt were only alive today! (The newscaster did not say who the two Senators were who kept the vote from being unanimous.)

I am glad that Zionism once more presents a unified picture, although I do not think that the basic questions of policy have been touched on as yet. We have a compromise but no melding. At least the first important step has been made and we can look for further clarification and progress; the Zionist movement is potentially as strong today as it has ever been in its history. This time the Palestinian goal should be assured. The Herald is certainly after the State Government in Massachusetts hammer and tongs; both the governor and the Legislature come in for their share of criticism - and most of it seems to be justified. There is something to the argument that in discontinuing the non-fraternization policy, the Army may have made a smart move in that the GI's will have the opportunity to size up the average German first hand. The Pearson sbby of the General Foods attempt to corner the supply of rye and their subsequent program to get rid of their stocks sounds like quite a sweet little deal; it is good to know that Anderson is blocking the Lobby efforts to help GF unload. I almost fell over when I read the report in the New York Times that Representative Martin had introduced a proposal to support the abandonment of military training all over the world; the contradiction of this to the Charter and to the entire course which our peace effort has taken is striking and is another reason why the Republican party is still the minority group. To oppose the Martin resolution is not to deny that the ideal situation would be for the abolishment of all arms and armies - without them war would be a physical impossibility; the point is that the Martin approach is entirely unrealistic for the simple reason that we do not live in that ideal situation. Our pattern of peace will eventually lead us to disarmament and scrapping of fortifications, but it is long road ahead. We have a victory to impress and to enforce on the vanquished; we have potential trouble spots all over the world; we have recognized that in the long first stages of permanent peace force is an unpleasant but a necessary tool of diplomacy. There is no need to even mention the fact that other nations, specifically Russia and China, have no thought of giving up their armies and a House resolution would do more harm than good. Disarmament is a dream of the future, when trust and understanding and peace become deeply rooted into the hearts of all man and it becomes a voluntary and spontaneous thing. If the Martin proposal signifies the official Republican attitude toward post-war military service, I will be sadly disappointed; it will mean that the Vandenberg role at San Francisco and the Republican vote on the Charter did not mean that the GOP is fully aware of the nature of the problems of world peace and of the commitment which we have made.

That sort of covers things for today - I'll save a couple of your letters for comment later. I am reading Trollope's "Sir Harry Hotspur" - I have never read anything of his before; Charlie Lesh left the volume here when he was sent down to New Caledonia.

Regards to Doris

All my love,

*Sumner*