

21 June 1945

Dear Ones,

Nothing special this noon - things are busy but not too exciting. No mail; in Dave Owen's letter of a few days back, he wrote that I will get one course credit for basic training and OCS. That means that I will have 14 credits all told - I need 15 and a thesis for graduation. In connection Dave mentioned the idea ( in a round about way ) that if under the point system it looks as though I will be in the service for a longer time than originally expected I should not altogether preclude the idea of going straight into Law School.

The news this noon told of the UNCTO unanimous denunciation of Franco's Spain since the Falangists came to power under the aegis of the axis; that is a good first sign. I hope the next step is to broaden the idea to include Argentina and nations where fascism has a foothold, whether actively sponsored by the axis or not. The point which I think should be clear is that here we have a definite indication that is directly contradictory to what the people who overemphasized the significance of the Argentine move by the US would have had us believe - namely, that our principles are being forgotten. The news also mentioned that the Republicans are still trying to hamper the Reciprocal Trade Legislation - this time they were defeated in an attempt to exempt farm products from the Act.

In connection with the death of Buckner, I have here another Lawrence article in which he lashes out at the strategy of the Okinawa campaign. His complaints seem to run in two directions. The first is that the Navy is suffering undue casualties; he blames this on the failure of the ground forces to secure operational airfields in time to cover the second phases of the attack after the beachheads. The second is his evaluation of the Army and Marine method of fighting; he calls the Army slow and prodding and unimaginative, in comparison with the amphibious lightning methods of the Marines. There is certainly some justification for certain of his arguments; but in his analysis of the strategic and tactical problems of fighting the Japs on land he does not tell the whole story. The true story of the Saipan engagement will probably never be known, but certainly it was proof of the validity not of the Marines' quick casualty rush ahead method but of the Army policy of cleaning up and not bypassing strong points of resistance; Lawrence did not mention the results of Bloody Iwo Jima in his argument for Marine tactics. He did not mention the Army successes of MacArthur in the South West Pacific. And the comparison of the European and Japanese theatres of operations is not justified. Probably the slow tortuous battle up the Italian peninsula is the only instance where the two are even closely related. All in all, I would say that Lawrence is right in pointing out that there is still a lot of work to be done in the coordination of strategy and tactics between the services; but if he thinks that any system can be devised under current methods that will not be costly in men and equipment as we move into the heart area of Japan, he is mistaken. Far be it from me to whitewash the various commands - I just don't like the impression that Lawrence gives that we are seeing bungling the equal of Pearl Harbor; that is unfair and untrue and unwise wartime journalism. The critical approach taken by the Times editorial I thought showed much better judgment.

I hope that my reaction to receiving an invitation to the wedding did not cause any rum-pus; I guess I was feeling a little ornery that day. You know, I was glad to hear you mention that Sophie Dorsey recalled my letter of last Xmas time - I was pretty sure that I had written to them at that time; I guess it was the Martins whom I skipped. As for the current discussion about the Emperor of Japan: I am a little mystified - it seems obvious to me that he is the living symbol to the Japanese of what they are living and dying for now and that the logical thing is to destroy him and his symbolism. So what if the Japanese are thrown into chaos - is that what total military defeat should do?

That sort of covers things for this noontime - all my love to you all -

Regards to Doris

*Summer*