

June 24th still

Dear Ones,

I will await your answer to the letter I wrote this morning; I guess it comes close to being as long a letter as I have ever written. No doubt you will have some comment to make upon it. I hope that I was clear enough so that my arguments are not too confused when you read them over. As I told you I typed in Major McGhee's office; he is the fellow I described to you in a letter a while back. Yesterday we got to talking and he told me about himself - he comes from Alabama, a graduate of Auburn (Alabama Poly.) From what I could gather he was a publicity man and free lance newspaper writer before the war and it is to that calling that he hopes to return. (His father is an editor of the Cincinnati Post.) He is a man of 37; he plays volleyball with us, is in excellent physical shape. I enjoy listening to his line of chatter - I think I described it to you - and I think that he takes a sort of uncle's interest in me. He has started a campaign to improve my posture with calls of "Straighten Up" - sounds very familiar, too!!!

Well, we heard today - the official announcement in an order will come out tomorrow - that we can now say that we are on Espiritu Santo instead of just somewhere in the New Hebrides. Of course we cannot say on what part of Espiritu Santo we are, but at least we are making progress. And it will give me something to write about. There is only one rub - before we could identify the spot there was an air of some mystery and importance to our address, but now that it is specific, and can be definitely placed on a map of this area, there will be no illusions as to the nature of our service out here. Actually it doesn't make any difference at all that you know specifically that I am on Santo. The radio station here used to be called "AE Espiritu" which was one of Joe T's cleverer ideas that I could not write to you at the time. (AE stands for Army expeditionary station.) Joe was all set to record a station break setting the name of the station to the music of "La Donna Est Mobile" but he never got around to it.

In the news review at noon today, we heard Baruch's testimony on the importance of the total elimination of the German industrial potential; that was good to hear. (In my letter this morning I never did get to the second phase which is the nature of the reconstruction of German territories, but in terms of political and economic organization that phase is definitely for a later period of time and must be conditioned from an entirely different viewpoint.) I am glad that my letters are arriving at home in good time - too good in some cases since I allow two weeks for my special letters as for birthdays! I hope that the arrangements for Zade's stay at Menikoe and his trip to Portland are all completed and in satisfactory shape; there certainly is a lot to do but there is nothing that is more important. It is regrettable that it took the pressure of a Federal agency to affect a union between the JDC and the UPA; it is the old and the sad story of our need of effective leadership. I was sorry to read that you are losing two of your key social service workers; I will add that the Maine salaries are certainly not especially high in comparison with other city and state positions. Perhaps after the war there will be more workers available and your groups may again be able to select the commissioners and directors you want; Norman Godfrey seems more gold-plated every day. If Donny Raybin does have 80 points the chances are that he will have the opportunity to get out when the critical score and the effective date are lowered.

The article on the lack of doctors and other trained professionals in the US is another side to my personal envy of fellows like Mike and Bob Stuart who were able to go to graduate school unmolested by the upsets of wartime conditions. It is apparent, if the reported figures are correct, that an error was made in failing to encourage through deferment young men to remain in training in the critical professions as a necessity of the society. I will say - although it is a hardly a constructive criticism - that the agencies complaining now should have recognized the error we were making before the



damage was done. The logical thing to do now is to adopt a policy of deferments and at least to avoid a continuation of the errors we have made in the past three years. Now it appears that the decision in 1943 to cut off medical deferments for pre-medical students was unwise; at that time the manpower shortage made it appear essential. In any event, the answer is action now not crying over spilt milk. It is an revelation such as this that is the best argument for the necessity of a degree of planning - such as military training - to be prepared for an emergency; another instance in which we can profit from costly experience.

The Elliott Roosevelt loan deal is quite a story; what it proves - except that it is nice to the President's son - I don't know. I will wait for your comment.

It is now 9:45 - I'll be back out at the depot tomorrow so I'll finish this letter up now. Rumor has it that mail came in late and I will get it tomorrow. We just finished a session of poker conducted in lieu of seeing "Union Pacific" - if they have to revive the oldies I wish we could get shows like "Here Comes Mr Jordan" or "Night Must Fall" the old pictures that were really tops; I wouldn't mind seeing "Lost Horizon" again either. As for the poker game, it is coming along well and I might really pay for the watch after all! Another \$10 night would just about do it.

OK for now - keep well; tomorrow is Anniversary Day; I hope that it dawns bright and cheerful. My thoughts will be with you.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

*Gummett*