

June 25th 1945

Dear Ones -

It is your anniversary; but I don't have to tell you that my thoughts of home are tempered by the news of Grandpa's passing. Like you, I was more or less prepared for the news, but even so the sense and realization of loss are great. In the attitude which all must take toward death, there is the consolation of a full life, life blessed with true happiness and real satisfactions. I will always remember Grandpa Bernstein in his older and mellower days, when he symbolized for me the life of faith and strong trust in his God, when he taught to all who would listen the lesson of the depth of happiness which he had found. I know that you feel as I do; though we have suffered a loss, I hope that you will take the periods of grief without punishing yourselves. The greatest respect which we can pay to our departed is to emulate the fullness, the honesty, and the goodness of their lives.

Today has been quiet - I am getting back into the depot work; that means the uniform of fatigues instead of suntan cottons. All of us are now wearing the POA (Pacific Ocean Area) shoulder patch - a red arrow on a blue field dotted with white stars; it is intended as a morale booster - esprit de corps and all that - and to make the uniform look more spiffy. So far it has meant nothing more than a few trying moments with a needle and thread. The story of sending GI's in Europe to schools while they occupy the country and wait transportation to come home hit upon a fine Army idea; would that something like that were currently feasible in the Pacific - it might be in the Philippines; I imagine that they will await the results of the first European efforts. I am enclosing in this letter my draft card and a couple of other items which I did not want to destroy; I am saving the certificate which announces that I have crossed the equator in case I cross again and a question arises as to whether I am a fit subject for the initiation. What a coincidence that Mrs. Craig should write about a Lt. Gannett when his father owns the papers she writes for!!! Seriously though her columns are good - as for Gannett, you can't call being stationed two hours from London really a very tough deal. I am glad the Kentucky Derby went off all right - I recall the one in '44 very vividly; we listened to Pensive win and the next day we were on our way to ye olde shippe.

If the results in Canada are any indication it would appear that Churchill may well return to power on a clearcut Conservative majority. No accredited commentators seem willing to stick out their reportorial necks on the outcome of the election. I guess we will just have to wait until mid-July and see. Almost every factor from the voters to the issues seems to be surrounded by unknown quantities. The news of Congressional action on the OWI, the CPA are good signs; the southern demagoguery on the FEPC is not. One of the TIMES clippings had a letter which stressed a point which to my mind should be emphasized - I know that in my letters I have not stressed it enough. The fact that our unique position in the world makes us the logical mediators does not mean that once we have considered the merits of the case we are not to take sides; it is critical that we must take sides when we have made our analysis of right and wrong.

It is interesting to see the Krock comment that the Russian agreement to the veto compromise at San Francisco was a feather in the caps of Stettinius, Hopkins, and Truman and that it destroys one of the anti-Stettinius arguments. As far as I can see, the press is still veering away from the Van Paassen approach to the Middle East - namely, examine the full record of British Imperial policy and you will find the answer to the ills of the Levant. The Fadiman article on E. B. White was good; I know White only from occasional reading of his stuff - from the portrait of him he would appear to be a man who has achieved an enviable balance in his viewpoint on life.

By this time you know that I heard from Mike Freedman and apparently the correspondence is renewed. I did not know that Harold Pines had been in China for two years - I am surprised at his writing that he thought he was on his way home; anyone in the Army that



long knows that you can't count on any policy on leaves or furloughs remaining constant. I see that the Boston Herald considers the Canadian election a boost to the anti-Churchill forces in England; if the CCF had gained seats I would have agreed, but that is not the case and as I understand it the CCF in Canada is the closest thing to England's Labor Party. Though there is always the chance that the English will swing enough into the camp of the in-between Liberal Party to deny the Tories a majority government. That is what I would like to see.

Bill Cunningham certainly poses a dilly in his question of the officers and the apology. The army is the army and the navy apparently is the navy - in fact I wouldn't be surprised if Cunningham changed the branch of service concerned in order to further disguise his story. My answer to the question that the very nature of military service left the junior officer with no choice but to accept the apology and let it go at that; in the service you gain nothing for yourself or your position by adopting an entirely justifiable civilian attitude. I was glad to see the Press Herald come out behind Hildreth and Fitzgerald - I know you will keep me informed as to the eventual decision in the matter. There is little point in going over all the arguments again, but I still just as strongly as ever even after reading all the opposing testimony that universal training is a necessary policy for the United States. I will have to read the decision on the McWard Seizure when I am in the tent and have time to digest the new verdict along with the Sullivan decision.

There can be no argument about the PM treatment of the Roosevelt loan affair; surely the editors and writers of PM cannot pass off the story that they feel that the A&P broke the story rather than Pegler. (Whether or not Pegler was informed by the A&P on the deal is another matter altogether.) The PM treatment is not justifiable; neither is the action of FHR if the Pegler reporting is proven to be correct in its detail. In any event, I must add that I do not feel that your wholesale denunciation of both the paper and President which this incident aroused were justified. I enjoyed your treatment of the Pio affair much more, Daddy.

OK for tonight - I still have several letters unopened and of course unanswered.

All my love,

*Sumner*

Regards to Doris