

August 28th 1945

Dear Ones,

I don't know if I will be able to eke out a letter tonight or not. Last night we went over to the Port Battalion (typical of Santo - it is a Battalion headquarters with only one port company under it!) to see a Sherlock Holmes story that turned out to be a first class stinker; but we managed to have a roaring good time with the short subjects which included a community sing - we made such a rumpus that we expect the Battalion commander to issue an order excluding us from the theatre! All of us are so anxious for some release that it doesn't take much to turn our pent-up enthusiasms loose. I read Leave Her to Heaven for a while but I have given up on it - it is pretty unoriginal. I can tell what is going to happen next, and it is nothing but continual catastrophe. I finished Snow's book and got hold of Howard Fast's Freedom Road and a couple of other Armed Forces editions. Today I had my teeth cleaned and sure enough two cavities undiscovered previously showed up - so a week from today back I go. I am determined from now on and when I return to civilian life to have a monthly check made on my teeth - allowing decay and cavities to accumulate is senseless.

The news of the Sino-Russian pact was good - once again the realism of Russian policy seems to have dispelled the self-created fears of the Luce-Eastman crowd. Russia apparently has agreed to evacuate Manchuria and recognize Chinese sovereignty; Mongolia is in turn to have the plebescite privilege of becoming independent. Russia is given guarantees and rights to Manchurian Ports. The key issue is that Russia has promised Chiang that she will not support the Chinese Communists against the Koumintang. And it seems to me from the fact that Mao Tse-tung is now going to Chungking that part of the agreement was that Chiang would recognize the Chinese Communist party, give it political standing, and stop his military and governmental war against them. In other words, Russia has put her chips on China's ability to evolve her own democratic basis under these conditions. If my interpretation is right, it seems to me that the prospects are extremely encouraging - and that is no globaloney.

It is now the 29th - yesterday Thorpe pulled one worth recording - he was talking about how disgusted he was with one of the officers here in Headquarters and instead of saying that he felt like "throwing up his hands in disgust" he condensed it to "I felt like throwing up in disgust." Last night we had a lot of fun - played an hour or so of ping-pong and then some poker. In quiet spells I have managed to read Frank Graham's Informal history of the NY Yankees - it is written like a newspaper story, just quickly touching on the highlights as it goes through the chronology. Things are fairly quiet - a couple of annoyingly petty jobs have to be cleaned up and there is a lot of nuisance value in them. Harry Goodwin is up here for a visit and I would like to hear him tell me that I am on my way out of here but no such luck. Closing this base is getting less and less pleasant if that is possible.

This is the third typewriter I have used in this letter - I just came back to the office to find 25 letters !!!!! Zowie - Louie Epstein, Uncle Lou, Renie Freedman, Uncle Harold, Joe Thompson, May Kay, and 19 fat ones from home. It is going to take me a week to read them, let alone answer them. Jay is now at Karachi India and apparently that is not a bad deal either - it is enough to say that there are WACS at his air field. Uncle Lou and Louie E did not have much to say. Joe Thompson is as wackily enthusiastic as ever - he is at the Pentagon building and in work a little more to his liking. Renie was thanking me for the tray and I guess Uncle Harold just wrote in the flush of V-J happiness.

OK for now - mail becomes my primary concern. I am reading Freedom Road and it starts off wonderfully. Payne's style is not smooth but his story telling is effective; I think that that you would enjoy the book. It must have a sound historical basis. (Note that error - I said "Payne" instead of "Fast" - I must have been thinking of Fast's famed biography of Tom Paine.)

All my love, *Sunny*

Regards to Doris