

August 19th

Dear Ones,

I owe you a letter for yesterday as well as today; yesterday noon I wrote to Aunt Anne, Lois, and Ruth; last night we saw Destry Rides Again and then I proceeded to do very poorly at the poker table for a change(?) I slept late today - it is an overcast day. The fellows tell me that the critical score has been reduced to 75 points - if it is applied to officers it will ^{MAKE} Art, Don, and Nate eligible for release - they all are pre-Pearl Harbor and have one child. It becomes increasingly obvious that I will have to sweat out a good long time in the Army; I won't start to gripe until I finish my second year overseas - I should say "gripe in earnest."

I am very well impressed by the Jackson report on the work of the War Crimes Commission, the Charter of the group, and the promise of speedy trials and effective precedents for international morality and legality. We have escaped the limitations of working on any previous codes; previous methods had to be scrapped and this certainly was the time for such a move. I hope that the country and specifically the legal elements of the nation respond favorably to the methods and the principles chosen. And I was glad to see that together with the crimes against peace, the violations of the practices of war, we find the crimes against humanity "persecutions on political, racial, or religious grounds.. whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where perpetrated." The precedent has been set; we have said that such persecutions are illegal. It may take years and centuries before we can live up to the true spirit which this part of the code reflects but we have taken the first and critical step.

The decision of the Control commission on the question of Austria is another striking proof of the effectiveness of our cooperation; the Austrian solution is very similar to that evolved for Germany. As far as I can see, the way is left open for the Soviet-sponsored Renner regime to prove that it deserves confidence; the occupation plans are for a period of trial and examination. It is important to note that the Russians did not block this approach and the re-examination of the entire Austrian problem. These factors are the best answer to the none-too-subtle protagonists of a split with the Soviet Union.

As for Russia's declaration of war, I at no time thought that it was a quickly planned opportunist venture. First of all, it was clear from the Truman announcement that the move had been planned at Potsdam; secondly, it has been further revealed that the eventual declaration was agreed to as early as the Teheran conference. Thirdly, you just don't go off attacking the vaunted Kwantung Army group on the spur of the moment. Fourthly it is entirely consistent with Russian history and her new role in the United Nations for her to actively join the fight against the Japanese. And lastly it was the effective answer to Japan's bid through Russia for a negotiated peace. Now to the important question at hand - the Chinese Communists. It is clear that some solution must now be reached; there is no reason to believe that Russia has any intention of annexing any important or sizable portions of Chinese North China and Manchuria, though she may get Port Arthur and a corridor to it as well as economic rights in Manchuria. But Russian interests coincide with those of the rest of the world in demanding a solution to the current Yen-an-Chungking split; there can be little doubt but that it was one of the topics of the Soong talks in Moscow. And we hear now that Pat Hurley has rushed off to Yen-an to see what working basis can be reached. Our job is to be sure that there is no civil strife in China; it is not our job to support one faction or another, our job is to assure that a democratic solution is reached without the use of arms. We must see that a working agreement that can grow into trust and understanding is developed between Chiang and Mao. The communists may well give up their separate Army and have it melded into the unified force of the Nation, and Chiang must recognize the communist party and be prepared to treat it as a political party on a democratic foundation, not as a threatening revolt. Our best interest is not to support Chiang against the Yen-an factions; it is not to force the communist diet down the throats of Chungking. Our best interest is to see honest politics and fair treatment reign in China. And I feel reasonably certain that that is the Russian desire too. If we can untangle Europe, then no Asiatic problem should deny solution to the councils of the world.

I am glad to see that Pearson and PM continually plug away to point out that some of the

administrators of our occupation are not complying with the letter or the spirit of our agreed to programs. We cannot slip up and end up without effecting the plans we have set forth. The Mallon articles still do not ring true to me - he loves to close his little lectures with an enumeration of all the ways of solving a problem that will not work; he just shakes his head at the many difficulties we face and worries about them. That negativism in his approach is not for me. Pegler certainly answered Elliott Roosevelt's statement as was expected; we will have to see what the investigating committee reports; I don't have to tell you that if it were proved that FIR went out and begged for his son, it would still not reflect on his greatness as our President and as a world leader. Even Pegler says that Elliott's war record has nothing to do with the facts of this loan - the same is true in relation to Elliott's father.

Judy sent me a group picture of the wedding - Louis is certainly going to be tall; he looks like a very personable young man - I still wish that his letters would reflect a little more seriousness than they do at present, or is that asking too much? I guess I was a pretty poor letter writer when I was in his shoes. I guess that Judy and Hank will eventually work out their difficulties - Judy mentioned that she is learning to drive and that she has the car. I am counting on Ruthy's writing me her impressions of her trip to Boston with them. The TIMES certainly gave page after page to the atomic bomb. There is still a lot of explanation which is very much greek to me. I will have to reread the various articles again. By the way, some of your letters still come with the APO number omitted - that slows them up anywhere from days to weeks.

So Bobby Morris is going to get married - Aunt Pearl will certainly have no dearth of sons- and daughters-in-law. I take it that Bob is still 4-F or essential or some such thing. I am not surprised that Helen's husband has received his orders - certainly there seemed little justification for his remaining in the States. I am glad that things are going well at the office and I readily make an exception in my belief that no one should be released from the service unless he has had a tour of overseas service in the case of Uncle Lou; it would certainly be wonderful if he were to be released and some of the office burden were off you Daddy. In any case, Uncle Lou cannot complain that he has not had a wonderful time in his three years; he has not had many of the discomforts of wartime readjustment. As for Aunt Pearl's letter - she certainly has a Bernsteinian handwriting, very similar to Aunt Etta's and Aunt Ida's. Despite the fact that I have never been very close to the Morriszes and my one major contact has not especially pleasant (and these factors and others color my attitude toward the children) I am glad that Aunt Pearl has been blessed with happiness; and I am sure that the children are all deserving of whatever good fortune comes their way. In view of the fact that everyone assumes that have been reassigned, I guess I was too strong in my mentioning in my various letters that I thought I might be moving on - from now on, no more attempts at prediction!

That sort of covers things for today; it is now raining and I will stay down here in the office until it stops. This morning I slept through breakfast for the first time in a long time; I am out of the habit and my sleep after 7 came in fits and starts. I finished "The Three Black Pennys" by Hergesheimer - it is not as good as "Java Head" by a long shot; his style is excellently concise and graphic, but his treatment of characters is not entirely satisfactory. This morning I started "Look to the Mountain." We have a Lana Turner movie tonight so I will undoubtedly go and I then will probably lose some more money at poker. I still have the feeling that I am fighting off stagnation and not doing a very good job. I very much want the assurance that I can sit down and work again on something I am interested in, that I will thrive on responsibility and having a job to do rather than be indifferent to it the way I tend to be now. I want to be sure that I can concentrate and that I can achieve what I want when I set out to get it.

Rumor has it that censorship may end in a little while - if it does I may supplement some of my previous reflections of life on Santo with specific word pictures. OK for now -

All my love,

Sammy

Regards to Doris.