

August 16th 1945

Dear Ones,

I stayed down at the depot this noon - I have "nashed" C ration biscuits all morning and I am skipping lunch; I just wrote to Juj and Bob Harwood. This is good letter writing time and it is cool down here. Tonight we have the New Zealanders over for volleyball and a special victory supper; the movie is the Royal Scandal so it should be a pleasant evening. There was no celebration here last night - what the war and the Army mean to us on Santo has not been changed by the fact that the fighting has stopped elsewhere. Last night I saw National Velvet and it is excellent; Ann <sup>Revere</sup> who usually plays a mother role in movies just about walks away with the picture - the whole show was good. I won a couple of bucks at poker before going to bed. This morning we slept through the seven o'clock news for the first time in a week.

The only letter of yours which I have down here is the one which includes Aunt Etta's note and Uncle Herb's poem - the latter was rather good; but I couldn't read Aunt Etta's comment - who is Walter? (Not that it really matters, just curiosity.) My reactions to Aunt Etta's letter were usual - she certainly goes overboard for anything that touches on the Morris clan; I am happy for her that she is able to find satisfaction in her love for them. Helen M's spouse sounds like perfect material for overseas service to me. I am more interested in her comments on current events than on family matters. Here are my reactions to her letter and some of my conclusions (I am now back in the office.) Aunt Etta had never heard of Ben Cohen until a few weeks ago; perhaps she does not associate him with Corcoran and Cohen. She admits that she knows little about the British political situation, that she is confused, and that she is not sure what we are fighting for, and yet, after admitting that, she says that she is alarmed by socialism, "all the isms are so closely related that to me one is as great a menace as another," and "it is all a terrible mess." If I were she, I would try to read the New York Times every day, I would try to read the Hearst columns and pick them apart, I would read the San Francisco charter and the Potsdam agreements, for I would be infinitely more afraid of my admitted ignorance than of those things of which I was ignorant. (I will stop with that; this is the second time I have written this paragraph, I tore up my first attempt as a little too barbed in its criticism.)

The Vandenberg letter brought up two important points; it is consistent with San Francisco and Mexico City that the US and the other Latin-American states do the policing in this hemisphere. However, it must be noted and clarified that this does not mean that we will not do policing in other areas if the occasion arises; that must be understood and agreed to - that is our commitment. I think that the rest of the United Nations will agree to that stipulation - it need not be a major question of dispute. I think that the other suggestions are valid - it is important that we define the authority and position of our delegate. On the question of the President's reporting to Congress immediately, I do not feel that any harm would be done; if the nation being acted against is strong enough to block effective moves of the United Nations announcing those moves in advance won't make a tinker's damn difference. However, United Nations action will come into play primarily in small cases and there the threat of positive action would play a preventive role - note that Vandenberg's proposal only calls for a report to Congress (and the Nation) not a vote; we are not hamstringing ourselves.

The LaGuardia-Morris "No Deal" party in the New York election takes the cake - I think that it is aimed to help O'Dwyer; if the situation was confused before, it is hard to describe what it is now; I hope that political fragmentation need not be an attribute of an advanced political society. For the truly advanced society recognizes that the fragmentation denies the effectiveness of their positive programs.

OK for this evening - the New Zealanders did not show up. All my love,

Regards to Doris,

