

6 October 1945

Dear ones -

And again - ten letters yesterday and ten today; I no sooner get one stack of clippings down to a respectable size than another replaces it - I'm not complaining, mind you. I also heard from Judy on the topic of what Louis should do in preparation for Harvard and so I answered by simply advising that he concentrate on thinking, writing, and reading - a pretty big order, I guess. I have a hunch from my impressions that Lou is no grind; but I think that that will help him - he has a pleasant personality, he is easy going and confident without being cocky, he has varied interests in music, and his school record and activity show that he is better than average. I also heard from Bender, the Harvard Counsellor for Veterans, again; my application for credits for OCS will be acted on soon and he will notify me of the result; he suggested that I look into USAFI (US Armed Forces Institute) courses for my remaining period in the Army and sent me a list of specific courses which Harvard OK'S and gives credit for. The only one on the list which did not duplicate courses for which I already ^{HAVE} credit which interested me was an introductory course to Psychology. I checked with George Haller, the I&E officer, and discovered that it is a course with 24 lessons; its cost to me would be about \$15. The catch is that after application it takes the first lesson a couple of months to arrive and then you receive each succeeding lesson only after you submit the paperwork covering the first section; in other words there would be a gap of some 20-30 days between completing one lesson and starting the next. So I sat down and wrote to the USAFI headquarters at the University of Wisconsin and requested approval of a plan whereby they would send me all twenty four lessons at one fell swoop so that I could work at my own pace in a more normal study manner; it would also be better in the case that I move from here. If they approve of this idea, I will sign up - if not, there is no point in it, since with mail service what it is the 24 courses are liable to spread out over a better than a year, and once I am out of the Army and back at school and regular courses, I will no longer want the course. I'll let you know what sort of an answer I receive. Last night we played a few hours of bridge and I sat there without holding a bid for hand after hand - it was just one of those nights when I couldn't play well or badly, I had no choice but to play the cards I had. Today is wet again. I got off the track there: I also heard from Aunt Mel, Willie, and Lois. I just dropped a short V-mail to the Floridians.

I had better breeze through the clippings I have left over from the old batch - merely three bursting envelopes. But I think that most of the items will be on material I have covered just lately. Before I forget (as if I could) in a directive today we learned that in addition to the airfield maintenance units, the Army would maintain a token garrison force on Santo - chills go up and down my spine! I am a little puzzled over all this stuff about Dewey's knowing about the Japanese code; the only possible political inference is that FDR knew of the Jap attack through the code and didn't do anything about it, which is hardly a credible argument. Obviously if FDR personally knew it, so did Marshall, and the key men of the intelligence and general staffs - yet no Pearl Harbor report has even hinted at that possibility. The Wallace proposals will probably serve to define the atom bomb sharing questions; that there will be a stiff fight in Congress is obvious. But it is my belief that in analyzing the arguments of those who oppose sharing you will find the predominance of a negative, peace-based-on-fear philosophy. The reports on the Balkan problems at the London meetings point to certain definite conclusions: Russia is not ready to trust any Balkan nation with an untried, Wilsonian-type western democratic system for which its current political potential is not atuned. And no one is ready to make any permanent commitments this early after the end of the war. The Russian picture is pretty hard and realistic and to my mind it is closer to a practical analysis of what can function in the Balkans. However, I hope that Byrnes and the British were alert enough to maintain their demands for observers, a free press, and other elements of obtaining and publicizing the facts of Balkan conditions. The Russian argument that observers are "interference" does not hold water - the sooner the elections in the Balkans can be held to the satisfaction of all, the smoother will be the basis for planning and agreement. Right now there is nothing more than indefinite factors to work with.

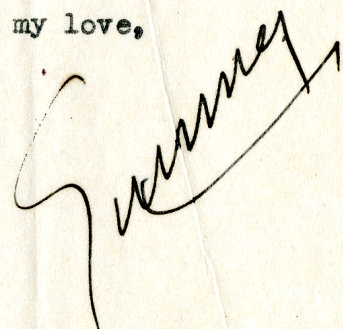
It is interesting to note the different comments of the various military men concerning Japan - those who are now occupying the country and the big shots talk in terms of small troop strengths to do the occupation job; but all the released captives are strong for a long-range, big-scale occupation. Perhaps the latter groups feel that they know the Japs more intimately. In any case this talk of the demobilized Jap Army's being harmless is specious argument; no group of 3 million men who were disarmed without a fight after no one knows how many years of training and practice together can be considered harmless - clearly, if they lost their weapons in a matter of a few weeks, they could, if given the leadership and opportunity recover their strength in an equally short time. The basic facts cannot be blurred - they apply in Asia as in Europe - we have no interest but an effective peace, and an effective peace first means the assured destruction of the elements which we fought before we start salvaging the good on which to rebuild. That is why Acheson's vigorous expressions deserve support; that is why Eisenhower is to be praised for his consistency in try to get at the right methods and means in Germany.

Now to get to the letters that came this weekend: most of them bore a Boston post-mark. Most of the envelopes I receive have too much address - all you need is STB, USAF Ord, APO 708, SFCal. I am not surprised at your reaction to Miss Williams, Helen Babsy; if she had any warmth six or seven years ago I guess that most of it is drained out of her by now - she has very little to be happy about. What I am sorry for is that she is not able to get the most out of her English classes - I am sure that you see the difference between her and Miss Pease. I imagine that next year you will have Miss Pease and you should thrive on her classes. Your work for Ramblings is encouraging; be sure and send me the copies if your editors have the good judgment to print some of your pieces. You are getting experience in self-expression that will stand you in good stead always, Toots. I always regretted that unlike many progressive high schools Deering did not have a weekly paper; the Great Neck high school had a wonderful one. I notice that Mother comments that in helping you it is a major victory when she proves the validity of her suggestions - you sound like me on that score, HB: I can recall showing the folks something I had written and then fighting for every word as though my very life depended upon it. The long paper I wrote on Steinbeck for Miss Pease was the climax. As for your PS, Toots - lipstick, huh? you'll have to wait for my approval until I can test it personally!

Ok for now - eventually I will send you the most recent Bender letter and a copy of the letter I sent to Wisconsin but I want to save them for reference until I settle this USAFI question.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.



THINKING about college here is an outline I hit upon.

- If I return before July - attend summer school, then law school in the fall.
- Sept - take full year to pick up degree and also a Masters maybe.
- Feb - pick up degree and take odds and ends courses for interest.

I am growing more and more dubious about the advisability of trying to hop right into law school. Right now the September 1946 bet looks like the most logical.

