

19 October 1945

Dear Ones,

It is after 11 and we are hoping against hope that some ghost plane will come in with some real mail; officially ATC has closed up at this base and until some troop carrier group starts service we have no scheduled plane arrivals. Nate Wolfe will be leaving one of these days and our ranks of officers are getting thinner and thinner. I just finished talking to a non-com from one of the outfits here and as he turned to leave I saw that he had "Westbrook, Maine" stencilled on his back - his name is St. Cyr and we spent a few minutes talking about Brighton Avenue, Bernstein's Used Cars, and such. Nothing else newsworthy has happened. I reread "Benchley Beside Himself" and got a big kick out of it. I am now reading three stories by Henry James. Last night was the first night in weeks that we did not play bridge.

We have heard that the War Department is contemplating a new critical score after December and perhaps that means that the point score will not be abandoned which is probably just as well since some basic priority system is needed. I just wish that they would not make these promises, that instead they would hold off until the plan was ready to be made effective. December 1st is still 6 weeks away, and they seem like 6 long weeks right now. The news from Argentina is hardly encouraging - I guess I was too hasty in assuming that the anti-peron forces were strong enough to outweigh the Army cliques; the need of anti-peron unity and agreement becomes more and more obvious. I am a little bit vague about Peron's relationship with the Argentine Labor movement and in turn Labor's relations with the anti-Peron Popular parties of the Center and Left. General strikes are seldom called by a "strong man" - they are the methods used by those out of power and with no physical weapons.

I just noticed that Laurence, the brilliant and highly publicized science editor of the NY TIMES, is your classmate, Daddy - the New Yorker article on his career comments that he tutored many of the class of '12 through college. I imagine that with Conant on one end of the operation and Laurence on the other, the Alumni Bulletin might find the Atomic bomb Harvardian enough to rate complete coverage!

It is now 7:15 of the 20th - these are the days when the working hours should be from 5 to 10 in the morning and 3 to 6 in the afternoon. The period around noontime is just too hot. I went to sleep around 8:30 last night and I do feel well rested this morning for a change. We have finished our part of loading this ship - all our stuff is down at the docks, I hope that the Port is able to get it all on; I hate the idea of having to drag parts of it back to the depot. Unless my ears are deceiving me, I would swear that the Army G-1 assistant who spoke to the Congressional committee yesterday said that all two year men would be on their way out under the point system by March 20th. That sounds good - now I just have to keep my fingers crossed that officers will come under the same general policy; even if they make it three years for officers I will be all right in March, and right now, with my overseas credits, I have the equivalent of four years stateside service. I am counting on civilian-congressional pressure to keep the Army true to its word. The Japanese cabinet has announced that it cannot comply with the MacArthur order directing the end of the monopolies and cartels - mighty tough. The Cabinet says that these organizations are the basis of Japanese economic life and prosperity - for some reason the spokesman did not include the fact that they are also the basis for war, and for economic exploitation. It was good to hear that the War Trials are finally ready to start rolling.

Not only have I not received any mail, but I haven't written any for the past week or so - for 18 months I have kept up the pace of correspondence fairly well; I have a hunch that from here in it is going to be more and more of a problem, with the exception of your letters from home, to whip up an answer to most of the letters I receive. Well, I hope that some mail comes in today -

All my love,

Regards to Doris

*Samuel*