

5:00 PM, Saturday, October 28th

Dear Ones,

I wrote to Dot Mintz and to Mulch and then we played bridge all afternoon - we dug up a Lt Patterson from the Airfield for a fourth and he was pretty much of a weak sister. The session as a whole wasn't too hot except for the first two rubbers - Pud and I started with a small slam and from then on things improved. Tonight I will see "Sweet and Lowdown" but I have a few minutes before chow to run through some more of your letters. I rather dislike the thought of starting a new week tomorrow just on general principles.

I couldn't help but think as I read your comment on Joan Bennett's being so talented, Mother, that in many ways HB is fortunate that she has always had stiff examples and standards to meet - it seems as though first it was Marilyn Prince, then the Tapley girl, then the Spalding girl, and now Joan. Although I am essentially cautious by nature, I left highschool feeling pretty good, and the fact that I was third in my class kept giving my ego an unhindered boost. It wasn't until I hit college that I met not only people who were better than I in one field, but also people who could run circles around me in everything; it took me a full year and a good bit of floundering around to shake myself aright. I was still in the process when I came into the Army - I guess any alive person is always more or less in the process of adjustment. What I am getting at is that HB has a better chance to set reasonable standards for herself than I had; and she is certainly more mature as a high school student that I was. Self confidence does not mean superiority in talents; its strength I guess comes from the old advice, "know thyself."

If this arrives in time, let me ask you not to send me that dollar bill - you always run the risk of losing it in the mails. As for the question of Juj and his handling of telling his folks about his illness; he wrote me the whole story - of course I did not get concerned; after all he is a doctor and ~~he is~~ among doctors. Though I certainly agree with you that he should have tempered his report to his parents - or not mentioned it until it was cured. No packages have arrived yet - with the discontinuance of V-mail I will be hard put in writing acknowledgments!! I'll figure out a way - I think I still have some postcards left from my stay at Camp Beale. And Mother, I understand that "Uncle Archie's intentions are good" - you're writing that really made me laugh - there is no family like the Thurmans. Thanks for the brochure on Daddy's award from the Scouts - certainly looks swell.

The politics of the OSB are really getting complicated; Miss Bowen apparently wants to help fill in the interim of the merger period by continuing the activity of both groups, while Margaret is still thinking in terms of OSB activity only. I do not like your position, either, Mother - you are more or less in agreement with Miss Bowen and apparently 75% of the Board yet if Margaret can't be conciliated you put yourself right into the hot seat of the Presidency with the Payson pressure on you to allow her to be the power behind the throne. Someone is bound to give in one of these days; I hope for the sake of the community that Margaret changes her position. Miss Bowen's stand seems to me to be justified on any count, especially in a long range view of the community problem. Aunt Anne mentioned that she and Uncle Joe were going to Baltimore - I take it that they accepted the Shapiro invitation; too bad I am not at Aberdeen now - and that covers more than the Shapiro shindig!

Thank you for your complete report on the Hartford meeting of the JDC, Daddy; the task of relief, but, more important, rehabilitation in Palestine is of immense proportion; the stories of work done during the war should be reminders of the necessity of our forcing these issues through to solution.

That about does it for tonight - I will come down in the morning and add a line or two - I don't know how long this early-to-rise habit of mine will last - for the moment I am convinced that this is the best hour of the day. The Football scores over the weekend seemed to highlight the fact that except for Army the teams are unpredictable - upsets seem to be the rule rather than the exception. I was glad to see that we won our second game. I am on guard tomorrow night - guard is about the only reason for most of us to be here. I though frankly I think it would be cheaper to give all this stuff to the Tonks and ship us home!

I'll have to wait to get the full story on the Truman Navy day speech; none of the news reviews have carried a full recap of it. I still feel that on the whole, Truman is moving toward a sound political position - the fact that his honeymoon with Congress may well be over does not mean necessarily that he is weaker nationally. I was sorry to see the notice of Mrs Brandeis's death; do you still keep in touch with Susan, Mother? what has happened to Louis D.B. Gilbert? Is he among the hallowed halls of Harvard yet?

The Atomic bomb question seems to be being subdivided - the first question is sharing the knowlege, the plans, the "know how" of manufacture with other nations. And it is obvious that we will not do that - the commercial aspects of the process if nothing else lead to that conclusion. However that does not preclude the second phase, that is sharing the use of the atomic bomb in the interests of world peace. Sharing the secret by itself would accomplish nothing - the agreement would have to be supplemented by overall world agreement on every phase of warfare; the same is true of sharing the use of the bomb - so to all extents and purposes in terms of building constructively for world peace we face the same problem. And from what I did hear of the Truman speech I take it that he made this clear. America has the Atomic bomb - it is America's responsibility to evolve the peace scheme which it calls for.

OK for now -

Regards to Doris,

All my love,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Suzanne", written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.