

20 November 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night we saw a superb movie - Mildred Pierce. It has always puzzled me when plans are announced for the filming of James M Cain's storied; in this case the adaptation was excellent. While smoothing over the less socially acceptable elements of the original Cain the picture managed to maintain the spirit of all the characters, and specifically Mildred and her daughter and their relationship. It is the first time that I can recall seeing Joan Crawford; she was the best of a fine cast. From any point of view, the picture is one of the year's toppers; Warner Brothers really hit the nail on the head with it. Sunday night, we saw Cooper's Along Came Jones - not half bad.

On the whole things are quiet; Hughes and Sprague are still sweating out transportation. Plans are being made for the rejugling of officers in order to fill the gaps left by the most recent demobilization announcements; I hope that I don't catch too many extra duties. I am going to the infirmary today for a general, annual check-up - I am hoping that the Ordnance office at headquarters of Sopac will request that I come down there to discuss the situation of this base so that I can get away from here for a while and so that I can get my eyes checked at one of the Hospitals there; there are no facilities here now.

One of the letters to the Times suggested that the Truman program will not supply the soldiers we need for occupation police duty and that we need the continuance of strong selective service system. That is certainly true for the next year or two - only the nature of the training program will tell as to our needs after that. The Boston Herald was frightfully discouraged by the election of Cutley; the pay-off will come if he is found guilty of the attempt to defraud with which he is being charged. It is a sad commentary on the political maturity of the citizens of Boston. As for O'Dwyer - I noticed that both PM and the TIMES, nominally Democratic, expressed confidence in the mayor elect based on the hope that he will not be tied by machine politics; as in Boston, the rule of the day seemed to be an indifferent public and a listless campaign. It should be a warning to national politicians that for strength in 1946 a candidate will have to be a crusader, willing to take the issues up and to take a stand upon them. It all fits into the picture of our national lethargy.

I note that Morgenthau came out strongly for the end of the White Paper; it is my impression that one result of the current situation is to arouse the sympathy and understanding of non-Zionist American Jews to the point where their fear of the political commitment is weaker than their fear for the very lives of European Jewry. I have been looking for an editorial in the Times but I haven't caught one yet. On the general question of our policy in Germany; there seems to be a wave of criticism in the press pointing to the growing incapability of the military to do the permanent occupation job. The first complaint seems to be that we have not directed any positive overall reconstruction pattern as the Russians have with parties and the support of unions and land reform; our policy in the East has emphasized the reestablishment of local governments and seeing the trends in these lowest level experiments. The rub is that our occupation isn't efficient enough and we don't have great enough coordination to whip this potentially good program into shape. We still haven't even answered the basic negative questions of the full destruction of Germany's heavy industry; with a similar lack of effective decision, the problems of German DP's remain - those persons who find in that indecision protection from facing the reward facing them for wartime activities in other regions. In all the questions, education, the press, administration, the newspaper men seem to agree that even with Eisenhower the Army is incapable of doing the job as it should be done and that the control-command elements of administration should pass into capable civilian hands with the Army serving as simply the police force. And their arguments seem to have logic.

I see that the Rotary Club gave me the benefit of my inactive service in crediting me with three years in the service. (Which reminds me - when will the powers that be give due credit for overseas service in these new length of service revisions? being overseas has become a real handicap. I'll stick to my word - I'll hold myself in check until



March - but if things haven't shaped up by then I will really blow my top.) I am looking forward to your letter with the full story of the soldier - pardon plea, Daddy. I enjoyed Aunt Pearl's letter, Mother; I am glad that she is so continually thrilled with the prospect of the happiness of her daughters and with the devotion of their husbands. As for Irv - he has no pity from me - for crying out loud, the guy gets home every three or four months and he continually touches new ports - he doesn't even know what being cooped up means! I was glad to note that Uncle Lou is introducing Selma to the whole family - he is very wise and it makes me feel that she is probably the girl for him.

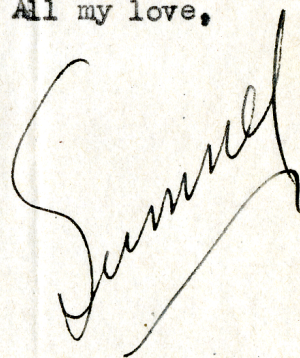
I see that Uncle Harold has not slowed down his pace at all and I was sorry to hear it. I was hoping that he would settle down and start to enjoy things but he seems to have his finger in more ~~than~~ pies than ever. I will wait for your letters and clippings before commenting fully on the French developments of De Gualle's inability to form a cabinet and the Truman public health proposals. (Right now it hurts me to type with the little finger of my left hand - I had to dig out a splinter from under the nail last night and the finger tip is sore.)

It is now 4 in the afternoon of an easy day - the first part of the medical exam was ok; tomorrow I will go to the Navy to get the lab work part of it done. The PM report that management is unified and labor in disagreement at the Washington conferences is typical of the liberal problem - the inability to stand together. Labor can do itself the biggest injustice in the world if the AFL, CIO, and UMW don't get together or if they force issues which manifestly will upset the conference. Labor leadership at this point must be very acute. The news of the Senate committee vote to give the USA UNO delegate full participatory powers was an encouraging note - one of the first in a long time. I don't know what to make of the Stalin absence from the Soviet celebrations. There can be little doubt but that he is tiring and that the strain of years of intense and constant activity are bound to tell on him - but no one can guess their seriousness. And certainly Stalin knows it as well as anyway and the inner councils of the Soviet are prepared for the eventuality of his death.

Well, I have just about cleaned up all the letters I have to answer and I am pretty well up to date on my non-home correspondence. The movie tonight is Love Letters with Jones and Cotten so that it should be good. I can imagine the trouble you had keeping Uncle Lou's engagement on the QT - I suppose that within an hour after Uncle Lou told the Godfreys, the whole story was out. I can't understand the Parker's not going to Devens to see Bill.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely "Samuel", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.