

28 November 1945

Dear Ones,

I am sitting down here in the office literally in a pool of sweat - it is the noon hour and I came down to see if there was anything in the office for: after the work we put in this morning I was afraid that if I hit the sack this afternoon I would not be able to get up. Boy, my desk was littered with papers - more reports!! I am going to go screaming mad one of these days - now they want all our property reported by its money value! Now I am going to even start to do that is beyond me. Oh well - any day now we will probably have to go out and tabulate our property by the square inch of space on the packages - nothing would surprise me. It beats me - where is the coordination between what is being asked for and the personnel available to supply the information? Hell, it is going to take me a week just to get clean, let alone make out all the reports that are due on the 1st. More fun. I got a note from Sprague - he saw Harry Goodwin in Noumea but I don't know what my chances are of getting breather from this place. Oh, well, I thrive on this place - or so I keep telling myself - I'm not going to start worrying until I have chewed my fingers down to the second knuckle ... yes, yes, as we used to say on One Man's Family...

Damn, I left the envelopes of clippings up in the tent - Oh well, I don't have much time anyway. I am glad that you had an opportunity to go out on a date during your trip to Boston Tots. I'll be looking for your report. Well, now that Council has survived for 25 years in Portland, Mother - let's see you arrived in 1922 so you have been in Portland for the greater part of that period.. - it ought to be able to go along on a self-sustaining basis. This anniversary is the opportunity for you to declare your independence! The example of your handling of the problem presented by Miss Oddy at the Hospital is a perfect one of the advisory capacities to which you should limit yourself, Mother. I have to run off to work now, things are fairly well fouled up as usual ....

It is now 7:30 in the evening - I spent all afternoon waiting around in the rain and so tonight I am just letting my detail ( still a stupendous group of two men, and mixed at that) load without supervision. I got them started - but I stayed in my khakis and here I am in the office, trying to type with my fingers crossed lest the phone ring and I get word of a snarl to untangle. ( I just explained this to Trosper.) Tomorrow I will Rauth handle this stuff and try to catch up on the mountains of paper work I have to pile through - I also should check the ammo dump: there just aren't enough free hours of the day - what hurts is that so many hours are wasted in waiting for trucks at the depots and stuff like that - just the way this afternoon was frittered away ..

When I went back to the tent this evening Jerry had a copy of a LIFE with a review of the Atlantic City Beauty contest - woof, woof, and a long low whistle: I wanna go home. ( By the way the mail brought me my first package - four cans of salted nuts from the Harold Thurmans.) But what I was going to get to was that most GI's are thinking of home in terms of girls, the lives they left, school, or what have you - there is talk of bonuses, there is some discussion of the GI Bill of Rights, but there is little real enthusiasm for anything but completely non-GI civilian life ... like Stanley Frank, I do not think that many soldiers are going to go overboard for the GI B of R. But only time will tell - the basic idea is the the ex-GI will not bother with those things which identify him a soldier if there is another way of doing the same thing that is not too inconvenient.

I don't know how colored the Stone stories from Palestine in PM are - but certainly I feel that Stone has been deeply impressed by what he has seen in the rebuilding of Palestine. It must be a civilization whose growth is made more striking by its immediate surroundings. The other reports from Egypt and Tripolitania, which give background material to the recent riots and their inspiration, if they receive wide publication will also strengthen the Zionist stand. As yet, I have not seen the evidence of the Arab opposition to Jewish requests - opposition on a broad, popular basis that is. So far every Arab spokesman or organization is under the heavy cloud of suspicion. Certainly the British have not yet cleared themselves from the accusations of sponsoring the Arab League in their divide and conquer policies. The questions of the pro-fascist Mufti and the other wartime "neutral" Arab elements are still not answered. I was glad to read of the AJC, through Proskauer, and their definite stand for the entry of 100,000, the building of the Jewish settlement, and the growth of Arab-Jewish cooperation



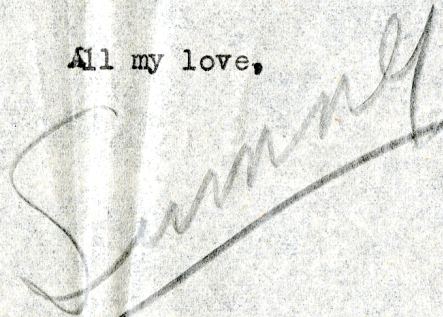
There was no equivocation in the Times' quotes of the AJC statement - certainly it should offer a basis for agreement between the ZOA and the AJC without the sacrifice of the particular ZOA eventuality of political aspirations for Palestine.

I am now listening to a dramatization of Hale's "Man without a Country" - I think that tomorrow night I will stand up during supper and cry out, "Gad, Sir, I never want to hear of Espiritu Santo again!" Maybe the court martial board will punish me by shipping me back to the States on the first ship and never allowing me to hear of this island again! But I fear that that won't work - I'll have to think of something else. I have another notion, however; it was suggested to me by the current Iranian difficulties. The US has apparently suggested that all troops, US, USSR, and British be removed before a certain date. My notion is to start a good honest revolt here on Santo and cause all sorts of trouble between the French local authorities and the natives until there is a question of the role to be played by the US troops and it is answered by removing us all....

Well, that is enough of this, I guess -

All my love,

Regards to Doris

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sammy", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.