

September 5th 1945

Dear Ones,

Bergman is superb, and the picture Saratoga Trunk is tops. (I am sorry that I cannot say the same for my poker fortunes.) Today is one of those days when all the annoyances and bothersome details come to a head - one of those days when I wish that I were out of the Army or at least out of Ordnance and off Santo. Hell.

Last night I heard a bit of a newscast concerning the provisions for the settlement of the internal Chinese questions - I couldn't catch the full detail and I don't know whether what I heard was the Chungking proposal or the accepted agreement. In any event, I guess that this is the critical period in the Chinese picture. Then this morning we heard that certain Congressmen were to present legislation calling for the release of all married men over 26, all teachers and "essential civilians," and all men, 20 or under, whose education had been interrupted. That really made me see red - not specifically because it unfairly ignores men of my group who happen to be 21 or better, whose education has been as much interrupted as anyone else's, and who have been in the Army longer than those who are only 20 - but because it will snafu the whole discharge picture. The Army has a point system of discharge, it is supplemented by the "over 35" provision. Congress can only raise false hopes, foul up the works, and leave the Army in an impossible position by adopting such legislation. Congressional pressure would be much better exerted to see that the Army makes its present systems effective....

Rumor has it that mail came in today - apparently we are going to get one big weekly delivery. I am just about through all of your letters and clippings. I have managed to keep up quite a pace this week in writing to you - I often wonder, when I fear that I am discussing topics that we have gone over many times before, that as well as being repetitious in subject matter, I may be contradictory in my arguments! Oftentimes I can't recall what I have written previously and I can imagine that sometimes my second analysis does not completely jibe with my first. The word apparently had come through officially on the end of censorship and the men are just aching to get to their pens and pencils and unload all their complaints; Congressmen will probably note a sizable increase in mail from soldiers overseas.

I think that PM is way off base in its diatribe against Bevin's first pronouncement on Great Britain's Balkan policy. To expect a complete reversal of Churchill's policies is to ask too much; to argue that Bevin's charges against the current Balkan regimes is a back-handed effort to support the elements of the Right and of reaction is to go off the deep end. I really got a pang when I saw the clipping about the 30th Division's arriving home - it has been some time since I heard from Garrett or any of the others in the 730th. I certainly envy them at this moment. So Bonnie Rossman turned around and married Bob Schwarz - I don't think that Bob Stuart really missed much.

I am reading "Anna and the King of Siam" - I had read the condensation of it in one of the magazines previously. Each night I either fall asleep reading or put down the book when I realize that I am getting too drowsy to absorb what I am looking at. Art is pretty certain to get his ship for the states this week; I think I told you that Milt Fishman is planning to move in when Art leaves. I wonder how long it will be before I get my orders to leave here? Back in July, we had a visiting fireman here and he hinted very strongly, in fact told me, that there was an opening in a company for me down at New Caledonia and that I would probably be asked for at the end of July -- well, I am still here. My plan was to wait until I received my orders and when I got to New Cal to request a transfer to Information-Education; there seemed to be nothing to be gained by trying to start the ball rolling up here - but now there seems to be nothing to lose. If I knew any of the important brass, it would help a lot, as it is, my connections are few and not very remarkable. I am still debating what my wisest course is - I want to escape from this oppressive vacuum.

That sort of covers what there is to say for today, I guess.

All my love, *Sumner*

Regards to Doris.