

14 September 1945

Dear Ones,

Last night I finished "The Yearling" and got to sleep early - this wet rainy weather is wonderful for sleeping; tonight I am on guard and I will go to services for Shabos Shova. Rumor now has it that the base will close in 45^{days} but I have come beyond the point of putting any credence in such whisperings; in the Army only the actuality can be believed. I am pretty well up on my letter writing with only Betty Freedman to answer - I feel rather sorry for her, she is not attractive, and she is extremely independent, which is fine but does not help to land most men; of course, Mike and his medicine and his marriage have overshadowed her in the past few years.

I am glad that the Army recognizes the need for increased special service-entertainment facilities. Something happened a couple of weeks ago on that line that struck me as reflecting a poor command attitude: the Jack Carson show has been in the South Pacific and from Guadalcanal it was scheduled to go to Noumea - the plane ride is broken by a stop here. It would have been a simple matter to have allowed the show to stop here for a day and half, do two shows, and then push on; but apparently the fact that we have a small population was given as a reason for not giving a show here. To my mind that is all the more reason for giving a show - even if there were only ten Army and Navy men here they would deserve the entertainment and certainly need it more than at the relatively large bases. Anyway, Carson gave a show in an airport hangar on the spur of the moment and the word spread around the island and he had a full house; he left about three hours after his plane landed. I am not well enough versed on all the intricacies of Balkan politics to judge the validity of the various complaints registered by the many factions - however it seems to me that our insistence on fair electoral procedures and our sending of semi-supervisory observers are the logical steps for us to take at this time.

Pearson certainly got a variety of guest columnists for his vacation period; the Maury Maverick article on the role of government spending and aid to small businesses was pretty good. I noticed in one of the later letters a column written by Clare Hoffman - in view of the pounding he gets from Pearson that should be something. I am little puzzled by the new tone of Dorothy Thompson in her column on the draft; first of all I disagree with her contention that volunteers will enlist in sufficient numbers to care for our needs - as usual I can reflect only the attitudes on Santo, but it will be a long dark day before most of these fellows would even consider signing up for a regular army stretch. Therefore I do not feel that she is justified in saying that the only reason we are maintaining an Army is that other nations are - we are maintaining an Army to be sure that we can meet our commitments of securing our hard won victory. To be sure the ultimate ideal of worldwide demobilization is a wonderful goal, but hardly a realistic basis of approach for today. I am also puzzled by her saying "Dumbarton Oaks and the SF Charter were blown into the air with Hiroshima and Nagasaki" - I wonder exactly what she means by that?

The PM story of Idaho's singing Senator is a little different from the details of the current status of "Pass the Biscuits" O'Daniel of Texas; the ways of politics are certainly varied - crooning and cowboy singing seem to have replaced baby-kissing. I guess the answer is that the man should be judged not on his campaign method (or promises) but on his previous and subsequent record. I enjoyed your summary of the community chest issues Mother; it seems to me from this vantage (?) point that what Portland needs is to hire a civic survey group to study the community problem and submit a comprehensive report on the social agencies involved; it is unfortunate that suggestions from within the community like Margaret's are bound to arouse personal feelings and true community welfare comes out second best. My impression is that all the charities and chests should be combined in one campaign for local needs; as for the specific question as to whether the goal should reflect the estimated contributions or the actual need - I am in the actual need school, too. As you say, Mother, intelligent and unselfish leadership is the first necessity.

The Sulzberger article on Russia reflected the type of approach on which a constructive

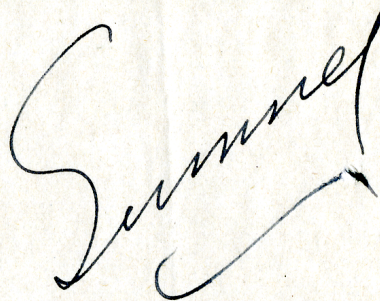
program can be built and understood and which opens the way to cooperation rather than antagonism; it is the subtle by critical difference between the TIMES and Time of the Readers Digest. I enjoy the Advocate clippings but I would like to see in them a greater emphasis on the fact that anti-Semitism is only ^{one} form of bigotry and prejudice and that while Palestine is one phase of the solution of the difficulty, the attack on the attitudes of anti-Semitism must be a comprehensive approach to the entire issue as it affects not only Jews, but Negroes and other minority groups as well. That is a point that Herb Shreiber often makes - although he tends to use it as argument against specifically Jewish activities as being too limited in scope. I was sorry to note that the Advocate feels that anti-Zionistic elements are strong in the forces behind Attlee and perhaps Truman; the continuing failure of Bevin to announce a Palestinian policy might be interpreted as supporting that assumption. It will be interesting to see if De Gualle comes out in support of Zionism in conjunction with his pledges against anti-Semitism in France. In the meantime Truman might well be able to force the issue - I do wish that something would happen if only to end the current problems in Europe.

OK for now - I will try to come back to this later. It is now 4:15 and I am all spick and span, ready to report in for the Guard Detail. It is another element in the routine which I could do without. I'd don't feel like going through clippings right now, so I'll talk about our mealtimes - the mess is very compact now, where there used to be a dozen tables there are now only five plus the Colonel's little four-seater. The result is that there are few empty seats and we tend to eat at the same tables with the same people meal after meal. The table we have used is right next to the Colonel and as a result all of our griping and complaints and comments must be known to him - I sometimes wonder what he thinks of the assortment of lieutenants and warrant officers who do nothing but find fault with the Army and Santo or argue about the interpretation of such questions as the Emperor's prerogatives from the moment they sit down. Every now and then I get the feeling that everytime I look up he is scowling at me - maybe all CO's are supposed to look that way at their junior officers, I don't know. I imagine that if I ever was in the CO's favor, I am not any longer.

That about covers things for today - the loading is going well and it does not look as though we will have any disturbing night sessions this time. I am managing to fight off the depths of depression as well as I can - this is a cheerless place.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Samuel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.