

22 September 1945

Dear Ones,

I am afraid that I am letting things get me down again - the frequency of these situations is what bothers. At the present time I am unofficially the Ordnance Officer, including general supply and ammunition, and the Chemical Warfare Officer - in other words I am responsible for what three officers were responsible for just last week at this time, while there has been no noticeable decrease in the job or jobs involved. Don is going to New Cal on temporary duty but it is a sure bet that he will not return; and I am dubious as ever about Thorpe's return. I am told that a request is in for a trained ammunition officer - if they don't send one (I don't know what the odds are one way or the other) I will really be up the creek without a paddle. The CWS job is not much - it is just that it is another report and another group of petty items to worry about. The problem of the island, aside from the huge stocks of ammunition, is the excess stuff used by overhead units like the Headquarters Company - they have one of this, and two of something else, and all the odds and ends have to be taken care of. I am fortunate in one thing: Major Moore ^(S-4) has gone to New Zealand on leave and so I don't have to listen to his ranting criticisms. I realize fully that a large part of the fault is with me - I am hostile to this whole idea of added responsibility in matters foreign to my interests and to the scope of my training; I do not have a feeling of full cooperation with the command channels over me, although I am beginning to think that the CO is not too unapproachable - the rub is that he has expressed a desire to get out of the service, too. As soon as things shape up, I will snap out of it - right now a huge undefined bulk seems to have landed on me. I guess I have a grouch on my pan most of the time, that my temper is getting a little quicker, and that I am doing a lot of talking to myself; I know that some of my lines of thought and worry do me more harm than good and I know that things are not as bad as I tend to make them. There is a limit to how much I can do - I know it and so do other people. There is a limit to what I can do. If I could get my mind off it and let things come as they will I would be much better off but I am not built that way.

Last night we played bridge and I managed to lose a buck and a half - the opponents made the first vulnerable grand slam we have seen in a long time; we were playing for a 20th. Now to go up to lunch and then I will be back to comment on some of your letters. I still have a number of letters from others to answer but except for Neil I have just let them go.

I got a kick out of Tokyo Rose's statements upon her capture- it seems as though all the "patriots" we find from Norway through Japan sing the same songs. But I got no kick out of the text of Higashi-Kuni's talk to the diet on the reasons for defeat. There is no recognition of the significance of the defeat for Japan - the evidence is piling up in even greater quantities as to the job which faces the administrators and controllers of Japan. On the topic of the meeting of the Big 5 in London, it is pretty clear that settling the difficulties of Europe is not going to be an easy matter of complete agreement. Behind all the diplomatic handling of the questions there are major specific problems and wide ranges of opinion; Trieste, the Ruhr and Saar Basins, Italy, the Balkans - they are thorns that people would like to ignore but which we obviously must attend to. I have a feeling that the world would like a period of relaxation and escape from the intensity of the war - I know that I do. I am ready to catch up on the things which make me what PM calls " a member of the postponed generation."

I see that Frank Sullivan went to the files and recorded the various statements by Taft and Fish and Nye and Wheeler on the impossibility of war with Japan - they helped a little to put the proper perspective on the criticism which blames Pearl Harbor on the political administration without regard for the spirit of the people and the times and some of the same critics. Last night we heard that the Dewey cohorts claim he could have won last year by exploiting what he knew about Pearl Harbor - I wonder. The new line-up of the Byrnes state department seems pretty acceptable - they are not taking over at an easy time.

That about does it for this noontime - I'll probably continue this tonight; I am glad that tomorrow is Sunday.