

September 24th

Dear Ones,

It is raining today - this summer weather here certainly doesn't give the dust a chance to rise. It is pretty good to have the old buffer of Thorpe back in the office and no matter how his mannerisms and his traits and his quirks annoy, I can't forget the way I felt last weekend. To give you an idea of the shrunken size of our command - we have combined the enlisted with the officers mess; we eat in our club room and the men eat in our old dining room. Needless to say this is causing a good deal of horseplay with the men. Last night I saw Hotel Berlin - pretty sad.

Good for Barbara Webster Browne; as for Herm Schwartz, he is regular Navy, so he can stay on his destroyer close to Tokyo - I am in a hundred percent agreement with anybody who wants to stay in the service since he means one less civilian who will have to be retained. As for Xmas packages, the odds are I will be off Santo in three months and the forwarding of packages is a slow process at best.

Thanks for sending me the full clippings on the Portland election; I agree with the Press Herald editorial that the low vote in itself was the best indication of our need for a change - 7,000 voters, no better than one tenth of the population, and still the heaviest balloting in four years! The change just for the sake of change is important; I know little about the city government, less about Barlow and the other personalities in it - but the shot in the arm is bound to help to some extent. We have more representatives and more frequent elections, but the paper is right in pointing out that the key thing is public interest and apparently we do not have that. One of the advantages to the City Council-Manager forms supposedly is that it is non-partisan - I wonder if a few husky civic issues with proper leadership might not be a wise stimulus. Something is needed - Portland is far from perfect. I am glad that the problem of paying the employees was ironed out - why Harry Libby was so adamant is beyond me; I also do not understand the attitudes of Haskell and Mayo Payson in protesting the legality of the entire election - in terms of civic welfare what is to be gained by such stubbornness? I can only come to the conclusion that there are elements in Portland which are strong enough to feel that they can actively attempt to block the Bowker reform measure for reasons primarily personal. In due time, I imagine that the legal tangle will be ironed out. I know that you will keep me informed as to the various candidates for the nine new positions; I had never heard of the first two to announce their intentions of running. The caliber of the first new council may be critical in the success of the revised system - I hope that the right people can be convinced to run and then be elected. I imagine that there are a number of groups active in this respect.

I see that Brewster is sticking to his guns on the Palestine question and I am glad of it. Pressure from the US can still be a decisive factor in the opening of Palestine to European Jews. Every news broadcast has reiterated the policies of MacArthur and the State Department to bring the mailed fist down upon Japan; as in the case of the release of men there seems to be a strong civilian appreciation of the importance of the correct handling of the defeated Japs. The Korean mistake of General Dodge will not be repeated, on that I think we can count. I heard a rumor today from a pretty authentic source that from now on we are going to have an orientation hour late Saturday afternoon which both officers and enlisted men will be required to attend; I am especially anxious to see if this experiment will be tried, what form the material will be presented in, and what the response will be. It is a crying shame that up until now orientation has been the step-child of the command; it is a little late in the game to try to catch up on the lost time and territory. I will say that I think that the first hour of the morning would be a better time than the last hour of the week, but that shouldn't make too much difference. Another rumor, brought back by Thorpe, is that a real attempt is being made to get the shipping in and this place closed up - it is about time; but every day new directives come out on shipments and if we have to change all of our Philippine shipments we will be some sixty days in just remarking all the boxes. And today we received word of a new report that is due!! that about takes the cake. Sometimes I wonder at the grasp of the situation

A

which the successively higher echelons of command have. Tomorrow the long job of dumping defective ammunition is to begin; we are working around the clock - I am hopeful that even though Thorpe himself did come back, an ammunition officer will be sent up here to handle the various ammunition details; now that activity is starting it will be a full time job and the War Department practically insists on an officer's presence in any movement of Ammo. Well, it is one o'clock - back to the salt mines.

It is now just before the movie - we are seeing Captain Kidd - apparently a new Laughton show. I dropped a V-mail to Aunt Anne this afternoon and started to write to Juj from whom I haven't heard for many a moon. We plan to get in a little bridge after the movie - this dumping of ammunition is going to upset my schedules for the rest of the week.

Thanks for the dope on my registering as a voter - will you get the further dope on what I have to do to register while overseas? I enjoy your newsy chit-chat, Mother; yes, dental floss might be a good idea - I have a spool or two and they will last me for a while; but you might toss in a spool to fill up one of your packages. As for Lt Stevens, it beats me how he got through OCS - he may exceptionally intelligent even though he lacks a winning or impressive personality. The last thing in the world I would venture to do is to evaluate the standards used by the various OCS boards throughout the Army. I am glad that HB is able to have contact with girls like the Misses Spalding and Barker - he will learn to make a necessary adjustment that hit me when I went to college. In high school I was on the top rung - at college I was outclassed at every turn; I soon learned that every relative position has its compensations - the "unusual" person is not necessarily the brilliant one, of the popular one, or the pretty one; rather the unusual person is the one who learns to adjust himself (or herself) to her own abilities and who becomes happy. I was sorry to read your report on Jamie's conduct, Mother; somehow or other the Thurman sons seemed to miss something in their households - the answer is obvious: the Thurman daughters! (If I were home, I bet I'd get a kiss for that one!) The Perry family difficulties seem to continue - I seem to recall that despite the outward accord there was not all peace between Ted's older brother (and his wife) and Mrs. Perry. I imagine that Norma is not entirely wrong in her analysis of Mrs Perry's attempt to hold her children.

All my love,

