

Dear Ones,

Letter writing comes first tonight - I did not write yesterday and this is my first chance today so I will have to catch Hangover Square some other time. Yesterday I worked for 12 hours supervising the loading of ammunition; I was relieved at 8 last evening and was lured into a bridge game. This morning I was up again around 6, finished up the loading, and spent the long afternoon until 6 out on the unloading end. As usual things were pretty well fouled up - no one kept supper for the men and we were pretty tired, dirty, and disgruntled, but all is well now. Thorpe tells me that SoPac is calling for more idiotic reports so I guess I will go from outside stress to inside strain. I enjoyed today's stint - I got the start of a suntan, I enjoyed being on the water, and the entire routine was a pleasant change. I am reading Somerset Maugham's "The Summing Up" and I suggest that you buy a copy for your library - this armed forces edition will fall apart after a few more people read it and I think the book is interesting and provocative enough to merit your getting it.

Two incidents of human nature which I noticed yesterday - perhaps they stuck with me because they both deal with a similar trait. At breakfast I was talking to the medical supply officer about his remaining stocks and he told me that he was waiting for a ship for Tokyo - and he looked at me as though I were supposed to be thrilled and amazed that his cargo was going to Tokyo. I fear that my calm reaction to his announcement disappointed him. Later in the day I was down on the dock and one of the headquarters commando's was with Thorpe and me. He pointed to a full naval commander with whom Thorpe was talking and said "Doesn't he look funny with a moustache?" "Who?" I asked. "Why, Commander Eshen - don't you know him? He is the director of operations. I know him well." Needless to say I did not bow down in deference to his acquaintance with such an official, and he was plainly a little hurt that his exalted friendship did not stir anything in me.... I am sure that you have run into a hundred similar conditions - I guess one's reaction is conditions by his opinion of the person and the way he happens to feel at the time.

I heard from Juj today - I should answer him; yesterday I found nine envelopes of clippings waiting for me, but it will be some time before I can get into them. I still owe the Osgoods a note. The only thing of interest in Juj's note was that he was well impressed with Shirley the few times that he saw her - he thinks that she is just about the right girl for Lou. Now to get to some of your long unanswered letters - when I miss a day of letter writing I get the feeling that I shall never catch up.

I should start collecting all the clippings about Wallace and his book but I am too lazy and I will take things as they come. The Mallon sarcasm on the Wallace book hardly seems justified in view of the serious reception it has received elsewhere; it was rather humorous but hardly a critical approach. Needless to say, I think that the approach Mrs Craig and the other columnists are taking to the employment issue is much better founded. On the whole, the clippings you have sent reflect the fact that the country is very much alert in the discussion of the questions of national readjustment. I see that the 30th Division's old Commander had a grudge against Marshall and that Pearson infers that that was reflected in the report. I know that Russell's successor was a good commander and that National Guard officers are not necessarily good combat men - but I think it is just as well that these digs into the regular Army fraternity are made; they can serve a constructive purpose. I think that the reports of fraternization in Germany are probably exaggerated and that in terms of the number of men involved the percentage of fraternizers is small.

Good for the Press Herald editorial on the city election and the evidence that we want a positive and progressive approach in our city government. As for the editorialist's plea that there is something in Maine for the young person, that remains to be seen - of course it is a matter of individual adaptability and desires. And certainly there is no reason why Maine couldn't snap out of its negativism and actively offer itself to those seeking a post-war opportunity. The first editorial was directly related to the second. There will be something in Maine, if Maine is ready to change.

Francis Smith certainly writes a peppy letter - lots of punctuation. It must have taken you

ten pages to answer all her questions, Mother. It would appear that civic attitudes in Bath are as modern as those in Portland. Beth Osgood must have caught up on her correspondence all at once - she and Herb are fine people and I do hope that the plans for your meeting next spring are successful and that I may be there to share the reunion with you.

The TPM article about low morale since VJ day hit the nail right on the head; the Army orientation program and education-relaxation schedules have not come through to our commands in tact and there is no countering element against the post-war letdowns. I am still waiting for Saturday here and see what Wolf cooks up - all the men and officers will be there as I understand it, so it will be a rigid test.

As I sit here typing I realize how tired I am - the boys asked me to play bridge tonight but that bed looks awfully inviting. We shall see. I left all the rest of your letters up at the tent. I will finish this up in the morning.

*all is well -
Dorothy*