

May 6 1946  
D Day minus 58

Dear Ones,

I am very irate once more so pardon while I blow off steam - the nonsense around here gets more aggravating every day: some one got the bright idea that in addition to two regimental officers of the day we now ought to have a battalion officer of the day - it is getting ridiculous - it is not as though there were anything to do, it is just the nuisance value of these additional duties. I must admit that my basic reaction is traceable to my inner disgust with this whole set-up.... today and tomorrow Sweeney is away and I am catching more than the usual amount of silly detail - the regimental executive officer called to ask me to find out why a company had so many AWOL's - I investigated and discovered that these men were going off before they ever reported into the unit - when I reported this, the Major still was not satisfied and asked me to talk to the Company Commander about it - what the hell good he can do if men go AWOL before they ever actually reach his command is beyond me.... all this on top of the fact that I only had three hours sleep last night -- the detail just bores me silly - what with our carnival, our ball teams, our training programs, nothing ever clicks perfectly and people are always on your tail for one thing or another.... oh hell, only 58 days to go.... I hope that I can survive each passing day with its not-so-passing nonsense - you understand that I use "nonsense" in lieu of stronger and saltier words for what we have to put up with.....

Now I feel better - it is a matter of sitting down and trying to figure out exactly what there is to be done and it usually adds up to not very much in the long run: the rub is that a willingness to work constructively is nullified by the unending stream of inconsequences that descend upon us... I am glad that Raaka is back to help share some of it...

Now let's see - I wrote to you from Washington - I got up and caught the 8 o'clock train to Richmond - it was only an hour late so I got in at noon. I went downtown and rechecked the Marshall - no rooms available. Same story at the Richmond so at that juncture I called Barbara and let it go at that - the day was wet, rain drizzling down, and there seemed little reason to troop all around. It so turned out that not staying out at Galeski's would have made everything inconvenient. It was a May Day affair - with puppet shows, booths, pageants: all driven inside by the rain. Barbara and I ate lunch and then we went out to Westhampton - we dutifully visited all the functions - then returned because Barbara was ushering at the play that evening and she had to change clothes - this meant we had to skip the school dinner and we ate supper with the Galeskis. We then went back to school and saw a very amusing, if not expert, performance of Midsummer's Night Dream. Then back to dress for the formal dance and we finished out the evening at the May Dance in the gym - it was a busy and complete day - lots of fun - and I managed to forget about Aberdeen. Sunday was an easy day - we passed it doing nothing special and I left on the 9:15 train, getting to bed at exactly 3 in the morning - it was worth it, for except for the last hour or so when the thought of my imminent return began to bother me, it was complete relaxation and escape. Barbara is pleasant company - and certainly having a Packard and a Dodge available has street car rides beaten all hollow. I guess I don't have to add that I sort of thrive on the easy Southern hospitality! I had a visit with Stella - she and all the rest send their best to you especially, Mother. At the dance I saw the entire Great Neck contingent... speak of coincidences - one of Barbara's cousins is engaged to Dot Fried's best friend, a Youngstown gal named Faith Wilkoff... General comments: your remark about phone calls from Richmond was unnecessary, Daddy - I wanted to make that one trip, but there is no percentage in any further visits as far as I can see.

That just about brings you up to date - today I met a fellow Harvard man - a sergeant here who is getting out tomorrow!

All my love,

*Summit*

Regards to Doris.